

# ARAB TIMES

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20 PAGES 150 FILS

## Jewish influx threat to world peace: OIC

JEDDAH, March 19, (AP): The 46-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference warned today that the Soviet Jewish influx into Israel constituted a threat to world peace.

"To confront the serious consequences of new migration of Soviet Jews to the (Israeli) occupied lands, the OIC urges all its members to use all possible means and methods to prevent the implementation of the Zionists' plot," said a statement issued after a two-day meeting by a committee of

OIC experts.

It did not spell out the means it foresees but the nine-member committee also appealed to the Soviet Union, the United States, and the United Nations and other international bodies "to adopt necessary measures to oblige Israel to halt its barbaric practices against the Palestinian and Arab lands."

The meeting at the Jeddah-based OIC, which for the world's estimated 1 billion Muslims, is the latest countermove

by Arab and Islamic bodies against the flow of the Soviet Jews into Israel.

There are fears in the Arab world that hundreds of thousands will settle in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The OIC follows up with deep anxiety and grave concern the perilous developments resulting from the emigration of the Jews from the Soviet Union to occupied Palestine which is a flagrant violation of ... the human rights charter, the UN resolu-

tions ... The 1949 Geneva Convention of 1949 and the Helsinki Agreement," said the OIC statement.

The committee comprised officials from Jordan, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

In Manama, Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said today that Beijing would back any Arab move at the UN Security Council to curtail the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

## Assembly under new rules

Crown Prince to present report to Amir shortly

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah has said that wide consultations with Kuwaitis showed they favoured a return to parliamentary democracy but under rules different from those of the Assembly dissolved in 1986.

Sheikh Saad told the Kuwait News Agency (Kuna) that during a month and a half of talks with the people he concluded they wanted clear "regulations and criteria" for a new parliament.

Sheikh Saad has been holding meetings with pro-government and opposition

personalities after HH the Amir offered a dialogue on public participation in government.

Kuna quoted Sheikh Saad as saying the consultations were necessary to "guarantee constructive co-operation between the constitutional authorities and boost national unity."

Many Kuwaitis and former deputies agree that rowdy public debates in the previous Assembly sowed divisions among the citizens.



East German communists take a beating

## Conservatives seek allies

EAST BERLIN, March 19, (Agencies): The leader of the Conservative Alliance that won the most votes in East Germany's election called today for tearing down the rest of the Berlin Wall and accelerating unification talks with West Germany.

Lothar de Maiziere, considered the top candidate for prime minister, also offered to form a broad coalition with other parties following Sunday's first-ever free balloting.

But the head of the leftist Socialist Democrats, which finished second, rejected a coalition with the Conservative Alliance.

De Maiziere's Christian Democratic Union won almost 41 per cent of the vote, good for 164 seats in the 400-member Parliament. It is allied with two other conservative parties that control another 29 seats, leaving the alliance eight seats short of a controlling majority.

The CDU is the sister party of West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Kohl's Christian Democrats, Kohl is a leading proponent of unification.

Speaking less than 24 hours after the victory, De Maiziere told reporters the Berlin Wall "must be removed as soon as possible as a clear sign of the merging of the two German states."

The Wall, long a symbol of East-West acrimony and East German repression, was opened Nov. 9 after East Germany's popular revolt toppled hardline communist leaders in October. Large sections of the Wall already have been removed.

De Maiziere, reading a statement by the Conservative Alliance, said it "wanted to build a political grand coalition."

"Therefore, we are inviting the Social Democrats and the Union of Free Democrats to coalition talks," he said. He earlier had expressed doubts about including the Social Democrats in a coalition.

The Social Democrats finished second in the voting with about 22 per cent of the vote, for 87 Parliament seats. It was a preference for the Social Democrats, which won just over 16 per cent of the vote to

unification than the CDU. The Union of Free Democrats is a smaller liberal party that won 21 seats.

The former Communist Party, now called the Party of Democratic Socialism, won just over 16 per cent of the vote to

finish third, controlling 65 seats.

Gregor Gysi, chairman of the reformed Communist Party, offered support to the leftist Social Democrats in an attempt to prevent the conservatives from gaining a two-thirds parliamentary majority.

At the last meeting Sheikh

Saad said: "I have felt

in my broad meetings and contacts with the citizens a general desire in laying down rules and controls for the restoration of a parliamentary life that ensures co-operation between various constitutional powers, and bolsters national unity and the internal front, aloof of any fresh crisis."

He expressed "appreciation for the cordial and frank spirit which prevailed throughout meetings with citizens from various walks of life as well as for their readiness for sincere co-operation so that Kuwait's interests remain above any other consideration."

At the last meeting Sheikh

Saad was quoted as telling the pro-democracy deputies: "I am

for an elected assembly that not only acts as a watchdog, but to which the government will be accountable."

The mission aims to develop

expertise in harnessing the

gravity of the moon to land

spacecraft on it or to swing them

deeper into space to rendezvous

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The geotail satellite is due to be

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Today's swing-by made Japan

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Hagoromo is the first

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landed on the lunar surface in

August, 1976. The first lunar fly-

by was on March 3, 1959 by the

US Pioneer 4 spacecraft.



Bomb blast kills one

Relatives of victims of a bomb blast in New Delhi weep outside a hospital where the injured were being treated. One man was killed and 17 injured from the bomb blast, which occurred in a vegetable market. (Reuter wirephoto)

## 29 butchered in Punjab

## Sikh militants attack

AMRITSAR, India, March 19, (Reuter): At least 29 people were killed in a sudden spurt of violence in the Sikh militant campaign for an independent homeland in Punjab, police said today.

They said the death toll in the 24 hours starting yesterday night included 14 people shot dead in one attack.

Police and residents of the remote village of Dalwani Bhai in southwestern Punjab said three men wearing Indian police uniforms set up a roadblock nearby last night.

They stopped the car of Sikh moderate Prem Singh and killed him, his bodyguard and a third man.

The men then stopped trucks and ordered the passengers to get

off, telling Sikhs to flee. They drove 11 non-Sikhs to Ferozepur, 25 km (15 miles) away. Five men dressed as orthodox Sikhs joined them and they lined them up and shot them dead.

In another incident near Amritsar, the Sikh holy city, five members of one family were kidnapped yesterday. Their bodies, surrounded by bullet casings, were found today, police said.

Well-known leftist politician Hardev Singh, a vocal opponent of the militants, was killed yesterday in the village of Harsh Shinna near Amritsar, police said.

Other victims included a former member of the powerful committee that runs Amritsar's

Golden Temple, the holiest Sikh temple. Several militants also died, police said.

Some 539 people have died this year in the Sikh separatist violence despite efforts by Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh, who made peace in Punjab a priority when he took office in December.

At least 397 people have been killed so far this year in Punjab by the Sikh militants, who say they need their own nation to combat what they call political and social discrimination by the government.

India was established as a secular nation after attaining independence from Britain in 1947. But Hindus, who make up 82 per cent of the population, dominate the government.

Japan

satellite

orbits moon

TOKYO, March 19, (Reuter): Japan became the third nation to send a craft into lunar orbit today when its Hagoromo spacecraft swung by the moon at a distance of 16,000 kms (10,000 miles).

After a five-and-one-half-week journey during which scientists fine-tuned the craft's trajectory, Hagoromo moved into a tight lunar orbit at 2004 GMT yesterday.

A larger mother spacecraft which had jettisoned Hagoromo 30 minutes earlier entered a larger orbit around the earth.

"We've taken one step forward toward planetary missions," said Yasumori Matogawa.

The mission aims to develop expertise in harnessing the gravity of the moon to land spacecraft on it or to swing them deeper into space to rendezvous with Venus or with comets. Such missions are being contemplated for later this decade.

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Rs 30,000.

The Finance Minister has continued the eight per cent surcharge, making it applicable to taxable incomes beyond Rs 37,500 against the present limit of Rs 50,000. He also announced several changes in the existing schemes of tax incentives to promote savings.

Dandavate has proposed a twin strategy to ensure better compliance of corporate taxation. He established major incentives like investment allowance and investment deposit account to close the escape route for the corporate sector to go out of the tax net. The rate for widely held domestic companies has been fixed at forty per cent, with corresponding changes in rates for other domestic companies.

Dandavate has estimated the deficit for 1990-91 at Rs 7,206 crores, against the budget estimates of Rs 7,337 crores and revised estimates of Rs 11,750 crores for the current year.

There is a substantial increase in the provision for defence services at Rs 15,750 crores, a direct result of the situation on the Indian borders.

In keeping with the new government's commitment to ensure that

(Continued on Page 11)

MANY expatriates who have been living for long periods in Kuwait cannot bring their families to live with them because of the decision requiring a minimum salary of KD 600 per month in the private sector.

In effect, this means that such expatriates will have to wait their whole lives before their salaries reach the stipulated level. The only solution is to obtain fake salary certificates stating that the employee is paid KD 600 per month.

I believe that those expatriates who have been living in Kuwait for long periods and have their lives well arranged, should be exempted from the salary ceiling. It will be a good humanitarian gesture if we consider the situations of such people and facilitate granting these family visas.

Zahed Matar



Ideal Home

Prime Minister Thatcher does some cooking during her visit to the 'Ideal Home' exhibition.

ARAB TIMES

## Grand Bingo

Mr Anup Chandra and Mrs Jasbir K. Bhatia have won the Four Corners and Top Line prizes respectively. They will receive KD 25 each. Game No. 76 continues for the First, Second and Third Full House Prizes.

## Kuwait defends Iraq's execution of journalist

MANILA, March 19, (UPI): President Corazon Aquino today rejected calls from lawmakers for the cancellation of exploratory talks next month on the future of key US military bases in the Philippines.

US officials over the weekend raised the possibility Washington would pull its military installations out of the Philippines within a year if no mutually acceptable arrangement was reached on a renewal of US base rights, which expire in 1991.

Congressmen regarded statements by Defense Secretary Dick Cheney and US Pacific Commander Adm. Huntington Hardisty as threats and urged Aquino to scrap upcoming talks with the United States and instead serve a notice of termination of the bases pact.

Cheney said on Saturday in Washington it was unlikely the US Congress would approve the significant increase in compensation that the Philippines was requesting in return for renewing the bases treaty. The bases are manned by some 14,500 service personnel.

plans and also indicate again the (termination) of the present bases agreement in 1991," Aquino said.

## INTERNATIONAL

# Benazir rallies Punjabi support

## Endorsement of Parliament demanded

ISLAMABAD, March 19. (Reuters): Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, sidestepping opposition demands that she seek fresh endorsement by Parliament, takes her campaign for public support to the heartland of her political foes tomorrow with a huge rally in Lahore.

The rally set for March 20 coincides with the date on which the President's constitutional power to appoint the prime minister lapses and the National Assembly is empowered to elect the premier.

Benazir has shunned repeated opposition demands that she seek re-election by the 237-member National Assembly on March 20, and instead she will go to Lahore, the Punjab power-base of her chief political foe Nawaz Sharif, to prove her popular support.

Political analysts say Benazir, who has strengthened her position since she narrowly defeated a no-confidence vote in the assembly last November, stands to gain further after March 20.

They note Benazir will depend after that date on parliamentary support, which she enjoys, rather than on the discretion of the President who does not belong to her Pakistan People's Party (PPP). The change will also bring wavering deputies to her side, political observers say.

But the opposition is insisting



Kim for Moscow

Kim Young-Sam, a co-leader of South Korea's ruling Democratic Liberal Party, left on Monday for Moscow for high-level talks aimed at improving relations with the Soviet Union.

Capitalist South Korea has no full diplomatic relations yet with the Soviet Union, although the two countries have recently expanded trade and set up limited consular ties.

Kim Young-Sam and his wife Sohn Myong-Soo wave to well-wishers at Seoul's Kimpo Airport. (Rauter wirephoto)

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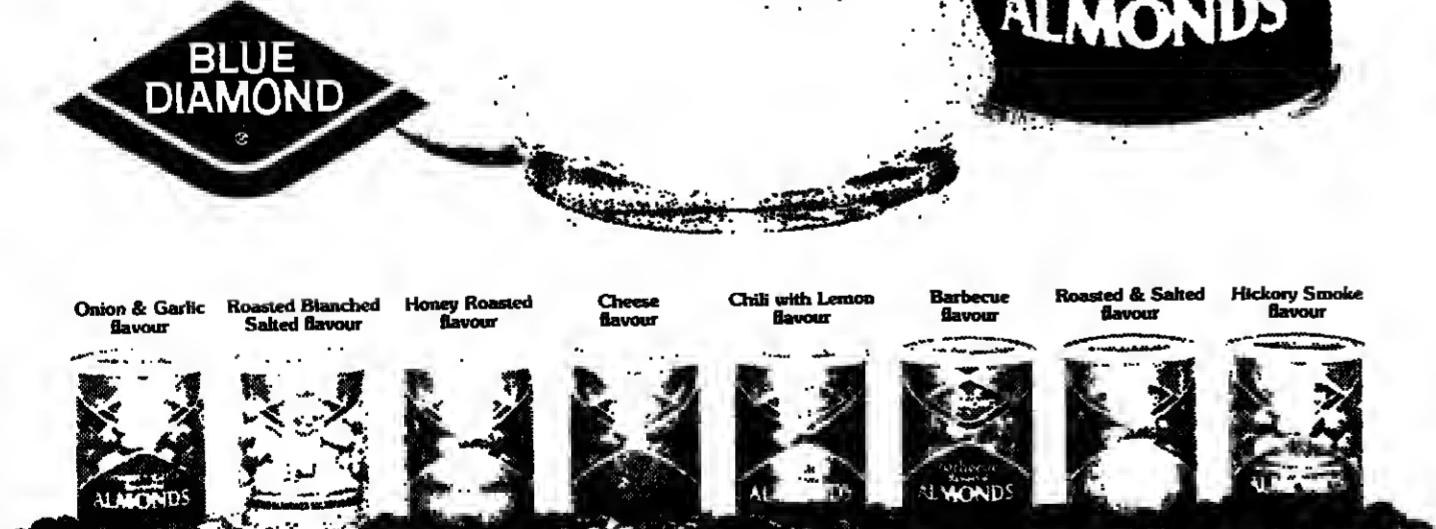
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## Nepal extends house arrests of opposition leaders

KATMANDU, March 19. (UPI): The government has extended the house arrests of opposition leaders while giving fresh signals it may be willing to bend on their demand for multi-party democracy, opposition and official sources said today.

The house arrests of three leaders of the banned Nepali Congress Party, already one month old, were extended yesterday for another three months, sources close to the party said.

The action followed more than a month of nationwide demonstrations and work stoppages by the Nepali Congress Party and seven other leftist parties that have resulted in thousands of arrests and at least 13 deaths.

The detentions of the Nepali Congress Party's senior leader, Ganesh Man Singh, its acting president, Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, and its Secretary-General, Girija Prasad Koirala, were extended for "personal security" reasons, the sour-

ces said.

Also, Dr Ananda Bhatta, who had been critical of alleged police excesses against female students during and before the movement, was arrested today, opposition sources said.

A top official in Nepal's partyless panchayat system of elected councils said meanwhile in an interview with the official National News Agency that some type of reforms will be made in the system, but reforms should be made only through the constitutional process, said Navaraj Subedi, chairman of the national parliament.

He nevertheless claimed the movement initiated Feb. 18 by the eight opposition parties "is not a people's movement. It is clear that the movement's proposals have been rejected and denied popular support."

King Birendra hinted last week at making

political reform within the panchayat system but his overtures were rejected by opposition leaders who have insisted on the full restoration of the multi-party democracy the king's father initiated 29 years ago.

Also, Krishna Bahadur, a local organizer with the London-based human rights group Amnesty International, was reported in serious condition while continuing a hunger strike he began Feb. 16 to protest prison conditions.

Bahadur was first arrested in Biratnagar in south-east Nepal, and later transferred to a remote hill station in Tebrahut, where he was continuing the fast as of Friday, his relatives said.

Many prisoners detained during the movement, especially those arrested in Kathmandu, have been transferred to remote jails where conditions are worse, opposition sources said.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Workers freed

SEOUL, March 19. (AP): Police today released all but seven workers arrested a day earlier in nation-wide labour protests organized by an outlawed dissident union group, officials said.

Police officials said 1,552 people, some of them radical students, were arrested in clashes with riot police in Seoul, Pusan, Taegu, Taejoo, Inchoo, Chonju, Aoyago and Buchon.

### Bomb blast kills 1

NEW DELHI, March 19. (UPI): A bomb exploded today at a bustling wholesale vegetable market in New Delhi, killing one person and wounding 17, police said.

Police described the bomb as "powerful and a sophisticated device" and said it apparently was left in a bag used for carrying vegetables.

### Shrines burned

TOKYO, March 19. (AP): Three shrines in Tokyo were burned to the ground before dawn today, and police are investigating the possible involvement of ultra-leftist radicals.

No one was hurt in the three separate fires, said an official of the Tokyo metropolitan police department.

### Aids baby

COLOMBO, March 19. (Kuna): Sri Lanka's first Aids infected baby was born today in a state run hospital in capital Colombo as a health official said.

The official said, the baby, a boy, was delivered under safe conditions and precautions will be taken against other patients contracting the killer disease.

### Silence

BANGKOK, March 19. (UPI): A young Thai woman committed suicide by jumping into a pond filled with crocodiles in front of hundreds of horrified tourists, a police officer said today.

Lt. Col. Sanya Weechareon, a police inspector of the Paknam police station, said an unidentified woman in her early twenties died of multiple bites after jumping into a crocodile pond at the Samut Prakan crocodile farm yesterday.

### Missing ship

CANBERRA, March 19. (AP): Search for a Japanese trawler and a Panamanian-registered bulk carrier missing off the coast of Western Australia continued today without success.

The Japanese-registered trawler Dahlia II placed an emergency radio call on Saturday that was picked up by Indonesian officials.

The boat, with 22 Indonesians and four Japanese on board, was fishing off the island of Java when that region was battered cyclone Alex, a spokesman for the sea safety centre said.

Almost everywhere he was met

by hostile crowds chanting secessionist slogans for largely India's only Muslim-majority state.

"We want freedom," they yelled. Most shopkeepers pulled down their shutters as Fernandes arrived, apparently fearing more of the trouble in which over 200 people have been killed since mid-January.

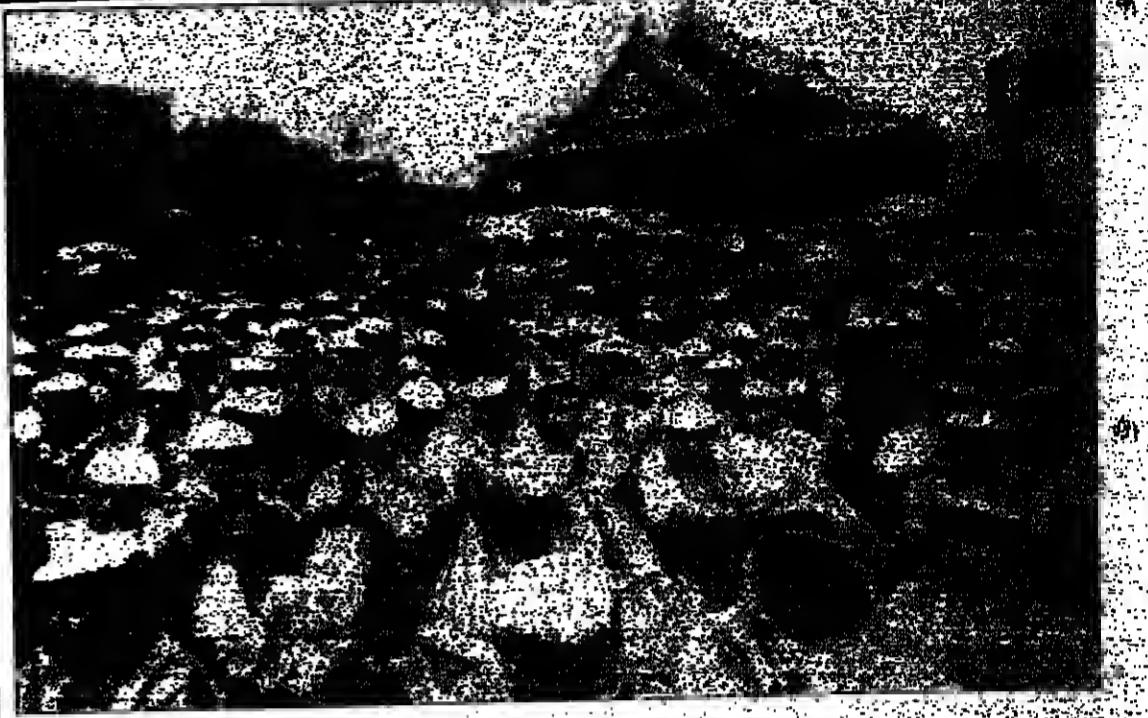
The Kashmir valley, once a

popular tourist spot for its scenic

Himalayan views and lakes, has

largely been under curfew since a

long-simmering secessionist



### Taiwan protest

Taiwan students protecting themselves from a steady rain, cheer political speeches in Taipei. Taiwan students are now demanding more democracy. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Fernandes gets hostile reception

### First foray outside Srinagar

SRINAGAR, India, March 19. (Reuters): India's new minister for Kashmir was greeted with hostility today as he made his first foray outside Srinagar, the centre of an anti-Indian uprising.

"The people of Kashmir are angry, which I could feel wherever I went," Minister George Fernandes told reporters.

Fernandes, who is also railways minister, ventured outside Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir state's summer capital, into villages and small towns.

Almost everywhere he was met

by hostile crowds chanting secessionist slogans for largely India's only Muslim-majority state.

"We want freedom," they yelled. Most shopkeepers pulled down their shutters as Fernandes arrived, apparently fearing more of the trouble in which over 200 people have been killed since mid-January.

The Kashmir valley, once a

popular tourist spot for its scenic

Himalayan views and lakes, has

largely been under curfew since a

long-simmering secessionist

mood exploded into violence.

In Srinagar, curfew breaks have been extended to 12 hours in recent days, from dawn to just before dark.

Many curfew breaks have been marked by demonstrations and attacks by secessionist gunmen. Delhi alleges are armed and trained by Pakistan, which controls one-third of Kashmir.

Pakistan, which has fought two of its three wars with India over Kashmir, denies the charges.

There was more violence today, even as Fernandes made his tour.

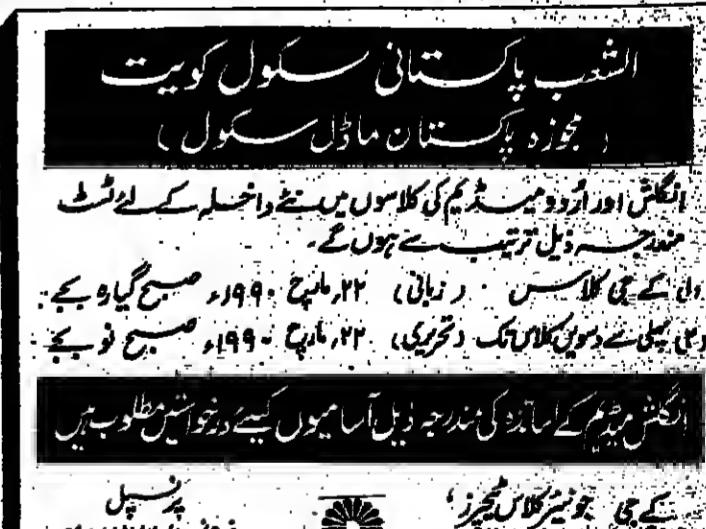
In Srinagar, militants killed telecommunications engineer B.K. Ganjoo.

Two masked gunmen entered Ganjoo's house and shot him dead. They left behind a message claiming responsibility on behalf of the Jammu and Kashmir Students' Liberation Front, one of many groups fighting Indian rule.

The message said Ganjoo had been killed because he was a police informer.

## Bingo Day 5

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## PEOPLE AND PLACES

NEW YORK: New York City Mayor David Dinkins says there was a method to his acting debut: let Dinkins act.

The mayor starred as himself in a cameo role in a new made-in-New York action adventure television show called "HELP!" the series is about people who answer police emergency telephone calls and bail people out of a myriad of urban disasters.

Dinkins said playing himself was simple.

"I know me well," he said.

The mayor's part called for him to present medal for bravery to a heroic firefighter. In the role, Dinkins strides into city hall's blue room—site of daily mayoral news conferences—and utters 56 words.

The mayor was paid union scale, \$414, for his 30-minutes work.

Tuesday. He said he plans to donate it to the Harlem junior tennis programme, which teaches the sport to indigent youth.

Director Janet Greek gushed over Dinkins' moonlighting: "He was really great."

ROME: Italy's top anti-Mafia official will appear in court in June to answer charges that he abused his powers and violated the secrecy of his office, judicial sources said on Sunday.

Domenico Sica, formerly Italy's leading anti-terrorism investigator, was appointed anti-Mafia high commissioner in August 1988 with extensive powers to co-ordinate a national crackdown on organised crime.

A Rome public prosecutor has formally accused Sica of abusing his power in his efforts to identify the author of a series of anonymous letters written last summer. The letters accused investigators in Palermo of negligence in their inquiries into the Sicilian Mafia. (Reuter)

WASHINGTON: President George Bush reportedly has banned broccoli from a diet known to include pork rinds doused in hot sauce and candy bars crumbled over cereal.

The March 26 issue of US News and World Report said Bush, an avowed vegetable hater and junk-food junkie, decreed that broccoli never be served on air force one, the presidential jet.

Bush, the report said, finally asserted himself after being forced to put up with the vegetable during his eight years as vice-president.

"What will parents tell Johnny when he refuses to eat his broccoli or other vegetables?" said Bob Carey of the produce marketing association, "that the president doesn't know what's good for him?" (AP) \*\*\*



## Album of the Year

Milli Vanilli hold their Juno award after having their album 'Girl You Know It's True' named best International Album of the Year at Canada's annual music award. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Traps rapist

## Lizard to the rescue

NAIROBI, March 19. (UPI): A giant monitor lizard foiled the escape of a would-be rapist in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi, the Sunday Nation newspaper reported yesterday.

The man, who was not named, had taken flight from a hostile mob at the city's Dandora Housing Estate after he attacked a woman planting vegetables on a plot of land, the paper said.

Alerted by the woman's screams, a crowd armed with rocks, sticks and "pangas"—all-purpose machetes—gave chase before the man could rape his victim. \*\*\*

Plunging across the dull red earth of the estate in fear of his life, the attacker ducked out of sight down the bank of the narrow, winding Nairobi river and jumped across.

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Plunging across

## INTERNATIONAL

# Ligachev ridicules Gorby policies

MOSCOW, March 19. (UPI): Politburo hardliner Yegor Ligachev ridiculed Mikhail Gorbachev's agricultural plans for private homesteads, his concept of a common civilisation in Europe and his reform of the party, the Pravda newspaper said yesterday.

Ligachev's speech at the Central Committee plenum last week, published by the daily Communist Party newspaper, was his most forceful and bitter criticism of the Soviet President's policies seen in print in the country.

He said creating the post of president of the Soviet Union was necessary "but by

itself the post will not bring the country out of its deep crisis. This can be done only by the Communist Party and the Soviets (republican parliaments and city councils)."

Ligachev also said he fully supported the Congress of People's Deputies resolution that Lithuania's declaring independence was illegal and invalid.

He said that Gorbachev's plans for private farming would not feed the nation in 10 years, that socialism was being sacrificed in Eastern Europe making Nato stronger and that the ruling Communist

Party was being transformed into a social democratic body.

Ligachev, now in charge of agriculture, said the countryside needs material and financial infusions not laws about leaving the collective farms to set up private homesteads.

"The countryside is so technically and socially backward, and the material base for preserving and processing agricultural products has been so neglected that without significant increases in financial help and deliveries of farming material, there can be no talk of a sufficiency of food products for five to 10 years," he said.

"But there are those who say, let us give the peasants the land, let us make them masters of the land and everything will start to take off," he said.

"I also want the peasants to be the masters of their land, but to put it simply, a pitchfork and a shovel, are just not enough to feed the country."

He also said that certain forces were using the slogans of perestroika to turn the Communist Party into a Social Democratic Party, to introduce private property and restore capitalist production, all the time pointing to Eastern Europe's example.

## Soviet army hit by wave of killings

LONDON, March 19, (AP): An unprecedented wave of murders of Soviet military officers claimed 59 victims last year, ranging in rank from lieutenant to general, a military affairs newsletter says.

The newsletter, published today by the respected Jane's information group, says the murders "appear to be part of the current move of antipathy felt toward the armed forces, particularly among younger age groups in ethnic regions."

In 1988 two officers were murdered, and in 1987 just one, it said.

The report said last year's victims included Lt. Igor Kholostyakov, stabbed 14 times while returning to his unit one night; Maj. Sergei Komissarov, 37, a research worker in an institute; Capt. Lt. Sergei Zadoyan, 27, a submariner murdered while home on leave; Lt. Col. Vladimir Bazhanov, 38, commander of a road construction battalion, stabbed 12 times.

It said "very few (of the murders) have been solved," and Soviet authorities are disturbed that local law enforcement agencies "are either incapable of or not interested in carrying out any proper line of inquiry."

"In the case of Lt. Kholostyakov, the police official arrived to 'survey the scene,' while his dog promptly fell asleep. That was nine months ago; since then nothing further has been done to bring the murderer(s) to justice," it said.

It said a special section has been set up in the top military prosecutor's office to liaise with local police and law offices, and new security guidelines are being drawn up to protect military personnel.

The reported murders come against a backdrop of rapidly rising crime rates in the Soviet Union. The murders were first brought to public notice in January in a speech by army Gen. Mikhail Moiseev, chief of the general staff, to the Soviet Parliament.

## Soviets begin probe into tank scandal

MOSCOW, March 19, (UPI): Government prosecutors have begun an investigation of a state co-operative that tried to illegally export the latest Soviet battle tanks in a major scandal involving high government figures, the Tass news agency said yesterday.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev promised on Wednesday a quick investigation into the activities of the ANT Co-operative after Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov threatened to resign when a legislator said he signed the papers for the concern.

The scandal originated in late December when the ANT Co-operative standing in Russia for automation, science and technology tried to export a trainload of T-72 battle tanks through the Black Sea port of Novorossisk, Tass said. The tanks were seized.

Anatoly Sobchak, a Lenin-grade lawyer and a rising legislative star, linked Ryzhkov's name with the co-operative during a speech at the Congress of People's Deputies that left the normally calm Ryzhkov fuming and threatening to resign.

"I do not think it is wrong to criticise (the Soviet Union) since shortcomings in our relations do exist," said Gombashov Oshirbat in his first news con-

# War of nerves over Lithuania

## Vilnius delegation arrives in Moscow

MOSCOW, March 19, (Agencies): The Kremlin and the leadership of self-proclaimed independent Lithuania were engaged in a war of nerves ahead of a Moscow deadline today to retract last week's declaration of independence by the Baltic republic.

The Soviet government today denied Lithuania's claims of unusual troop manoeuvres in the Baltic republic and warned foreign countries

against recognising its recent declaration of independence.

The Soviet parliament began consideration of a vital law on secession amid reports from Vilnius that Soviet aircraft buzzed the Lithuanian capital in low-level swoops yesterday and that Soviet Army troops and tanks were on the move in various parts of the republic.

## Nationalists win in Latvia

MOSCOW, March 19, (AP): Latvia's independence-minded People's Front emerged victorious today after the republic's first free elections in 50 years. But initial results showed it failed to achieve a parliament majority needed to press for independence.

Reformists claimed many victories in runoff elections held yesterday in Russia, Byelorussia and the Ukraine, the Slavic heartland that accounts for about 80 per cent of the Soviet Union's territory and two-thirds of its population.

Activists had hoped that yesterday's elections to parliaments in Latvia and Estonia, annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940, would follow the lead of nearby Lithuania and bring independence supporters to power.

Lithuania's parliament was taken over by independence supporters in February and early March elections, and the legislators declared Lithuania independent on March 13.

The Soviet Congress declared the move illegal and

President Mikhail Gorbachev on Friday gave the republic three days to respond. He later offered to have talks with the Lithuanians.

A delegation of legislators headed by former Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas arrived in Moscow with a response today, just as the deadline was expiring.

Lithuania followed Lithuania and legalised alternative political parties several months ago. No such move was made in Estonia but a variety of parties put forward candidates without interference. The Soviet Congress legalised multiple political parties for the whole country tomorrow.

In Latvia, People's Front supporters won 108 mandates to the 201-seat parliament, a large majority among the 170 legislators elected, according to initial results cited by the Soviet Tass agency.



Gorbachev talks to reporters after casting his ballot in the second round of elections in the Russian Federation. (Reuter wirephoto)

years of rising national consciousness under Gorbachev's perestroika reforms. But so far no other government has recognised the proclamation.

Economists say Moscow has a number of ways to put pressure on Lithuania, including its control of communications and the republic's lack of fuel and other raw materials.

Nikolai Medvedev, one of several deputies due to meet Gor-

bachev, said Lithuania could not accept Gorbachev's warning last Friday giving the republic three days to retract its independence declaration.

"We shall ask him once again to start negotiations with us on Lithuania's independence."

Gorbachev, speaking to reporters outside a Moscow polling station, indicated fresh willingness to talk as he did following his inauguration as

executive president last Thursday.

"Above all there was no ultimatum," he said, adding that the decision had "surprised many of us, including in Lithuania. Nevertheless, we will hold discussions."

The Postfactum news agency also reported that radical economist Gavril Popov had defeated a district party secretary to secure a council seat.



Supporters of the Lithuanian Communist Party rally against the resolutions passed by the Supreme Soviet of Lithuania. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Soviet Union leaving Mongolia as it found it — an impoverished orphan

ULAN BATOR, March 19. (Reuter): The Soviet Union is relinquishing its 69-year-old role as Mongolia's debt-mother, but many people here say it is leaving the country as it found it — an impoverished orphan.

Newly formed democratic parties and an emboldened official press have in recent months launched an unprecedented deluge of criticism against Moscow, and the government seems content to let the scurrility continue.

"I do not think it is wrong to criticise (the Soviet Union) since shortcomings in our relations do exist," said Gombashov Oshirbat in his first news con-

ference last week after being elected general secretary of the Communist Party.

The Soviet Red Army marched into a war ravaged and starving Mongolia in 1921. It quickly eradicated all foreign influence, particularly Chinese and Japanese, and nurtured an obedient government loyal to Moscow's command.

Over the next seven decades the Soviet Union built almost all of Mongolia's infrastructure, trained its personnel, supplied loans and grants which remain its economic lifeline and provided a market for 85 per cent of the landlocked country's exports.

But it also presided over the desecration

of Buddhist monasteries, the killing of top monks, political purges, the suppression of Mongolian culture and the creation of a social system giving resident Soviets privilege denied local people.

"Our relationship is very complicated," said a journalist working for the official Monstma News Agency.

"It is something like the relationship of a cruel stepmother to an orphan she does not like but is forced to keep," said the journalist who did not want to be identified.

Mongolia's role as a buffer between the Soviet Union and China is also less vital now than in the 1960s when Soviet and Chinese troops clashed across their dis-

puted common borders.

This vast territory of desert and mountains three times the size of France shares a long southern border with China and is surrounded elsewhere by the Soviet Union.

Last May, China and the Soviet Union repaired a 30-year-old rift, making Mongolia less important to Moscow, diplomats said.

Moscow agreed this month to complete a withdrawal of a total of 65,000 Soviet troops by the end of 1991.

But as the disliked military presence ends, so will Soviet credit and technical assistance.

## Challenge to Maggie inevitable: Tory critics

LONDON, March 19. (Reuters): Conservative critics of embattled Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher warned yesterday that a renewed challenge to her leadership looked inevitable in the autumn.

The warning came hours after Thatcher launched a counter-attack on dissenting voices within her Conservative Party and vowed to fight on as leader to win a fourth successive general election victory.

A former government minister, who asked not to be identified, told Britain's Press Association news agency that a leadership battle was "almost inevitable" this autumn if the government's problems did not ease.

Right-wing Conservative Member of Parliament Terry Dicks called on Thatcher to quit "sooner rather than later and certainly before a general election."

Thatcher and the Conservative Party, in power since 1979, are losing support because of unpopular economic policies, reforms to the state-run National Health Service and high inflation and interest rates.

A new local tax to be introduced next month has sparked nationwide protests that have often degenerated into near-riots.

Tomorrow Chancellor John Major will unveil an annual budget seen as crucial for the government's future prospects.

Opinion polls this weekend indicated that the Conservatives were heading for their worst by-election defeat in more than half a century in their formerly safe seat of Mid-Staffordshire on Thursday.

A survey in the Independent on Sunday said 56 per cent of those questioned would vote for the opposition Labour Party and 28 per cent for the Conservatives.

Thatcher pledged yesterday to fight hard to win the next election, which she must call before mid-1992, but admitted it would be a tough battle.

"We have the best direction, the best vision and the capacity to stick to our guns," Thatcher told the Sunday Express newspaper.

"I have always found elections tough. I never assumed that we would win," she said. "We fight every inch of the way."

She dismissed rumours of a plot against her by a dissident group of Conservative Members of Parliament.

"I do not believe there are many doing that," she said. "The majority have stayed remarkably loyal."

But Conservative parliamentarian Richard Shepherd said on television the party must decide whether the government would be "better served by someone other than Mrs Thatcher."

The Sunday Times said the Conservatives were finalising new internal election rules designed to make a leadership battle more difficult but critics said almost anybody could win enough support to force a challenge.

Former Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine is mounting a thinly-disguised campaign for the future leadership of the party but has said he will not stand against Thatcher.

Some passers-by in the thinly-left-leaning capital applauded but rival groups, flushed with the right's election victory, jostled back.

At the historic Brandenburg Gate, Wolfgang Gerlach wandered westward home with new worries. "I think the East Germans are deluding themselves," he said. "They believe the mighty



Protest

Greco-Catholic priests officiating at a Sunday service in Cluj, Romania, left of the statue of Mathias Rex, thus protesting against their not having a church of their own. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Berlin becomes focus of unity

EAST BERLIN, March 19. (Reuters): Election fever crowds down champagne surged through Berlin as the city celebrated a massive vote in favour of a rapid transition to a united Germany.

Drab East Berlin became a haze of light somewhat brighter than affluent West Berlin as people celebrated Sunday's polls decision to ditch their worries and join the West.

Thousands of revelers turned out on a balmy spring night to festivities suggesting that Berlin will regain its role as the hub of a united Germany.

"It was like black and white," leather-jacketed Frank Unger said of the election choice as he returned from a stroll in the West with his girlfriend and a half-empty bottle of wine.

"We have got to change fast, so there's no point trying to hold on to a social security system we can't pay for," the 29-year-old bricklayer said.

Unger was one of millions of East Germans who voted two to one for the Christian Democrats (CDU), against the Social Democrats (SPD), preferring the conservative path to rapid unity over left-wing caution.

The suede cashmere and chiffon of affluent West Germany rubbed shoulders with the acrylics and stone-washed denim of the East of the packed pavements of East Berlin, lit up like a Christmas tree for the event.

People drank sparkling wine as they strolled through the balmy evening. Sleek limousines from the West and plastic-bodied trabants from the East headed into a single river of light on the broad boulevards.

Only a shortage of neon and over-filled shop windows distinguished the Alexanderplatz Square from West Berlin's flashy city centre.

"Berlin stays red," was the chant from a hundred or so youths who marched around in a small but boisterous demonstration.

But they said Berlin had become "a world city again."

The people of Leipzig, who launched East Germany's anti-colonial revolution with street demonstrations, shunned public rejoicing as results rolled in from the country's first election.

(West German) mark will solve everything.

"The West German CDU simply overran the country," said friend Michael Soeniger.

"There was something new, colonialist, almost imperialist about it."

But they said Berlin had become "a world city again."

The people of Leipzig, who

launched East Germany's anti-colonial revolution with street demonstrations, shunned public rejoicing as results rolled in from the country's first election.

East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow (left) and Party for Democracy and Socialism leader Gregor Gysi hug each other at campaign headquarters.

(Reuter wirephoto)





Good life for few

CUBAN President Fidel Castro has told Brazilians that the capitalist system is only giving the good life to about 20 countries and is not helping the rest of the world. The Cuban communist leader, whose country is looking more isolated

because of the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe, told a news conference in Sao Paulo on Sunday night: "Capitalism stimulates the worst instincts of mankind."

Castro waves from the balcony of the residence of Luis Inacio Lula de Silva.

## Savage SA black infighting; 24 killed

### Angry mob attacks Zulu chief's home in Natal

JOHANNESBURG, March 19, (AP): At least 24 people were killed in savage fighting between rival black factions, including 15 men who died when the home of a tribal chief was attacked with rifles and grenades, police said today.

A mob attacked a Zulu chief's Kraal or home yesterday at Njokozzi near Hammersdale in Natal and slaughtered many of the inhabitants.

Police reported nine other people killed over the weekend, most of them in factional fighting in Natal. Police used shotguns and teargas to disperse a number of protests in black townships in several areas, they said.

The independent South African Press Association reported at least four people were shot and wounded today in fighting in a black township outside Johannesburg. The news agency said a mob burned down shops belonging to an unpopular black businessman before police dispersed them with tear gas.

More than 300 people have died in South Africa in a wave of mainly black factional violence during the past month. The violence is the worst to hit the country since major riots during the mid-1980s.

The Citizen newspaper reported today that security officials were worried about a possible violent white backlash against the growing black unrest. At least one white has been killed and several injured in recent days after being caught up in black factional fights.

In the Njokozzi incident, local reporters, who asked not to be named, said the chief was a leader of the Inkatha political movement of the Zulu tribe and the attackers members of the United Democratic Front. Police had no comment on the report.

Some 3,000 people have been killed in Natal in recent years in fighting between the conservative Inkatha movement and the radical UDF. Both movements are anti-apartheid, but differ over the makeup of a future state.

Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi said last night that only security forces can end the fighting in Natal even though political leaders must help ease tension.

Buthelezi said he was ready to meet with African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela and possibly tour areas hit by violence with him to try to end unrest.

Mandela, released last month after 27 years in jail, went to Natal to appeal for an end to the violence last month, but the fighting has not ended.

Mandela and Buthelezi are to meet soon to try and resolve their group's differences. Mandela has blamed the violence on what he says are repressive policies of the white minority government.

Rioting, looting, and in particular, random attacks on whites, are giving the African National Congress a bad name, a black leader told a rally yesterday.

"There is no way in which a riot, the looting of shops ... can be understood to advance our struggle," United Democratic Front leader Patrik Lekota told an ANC rally in the Indian township of Lenasia, west of Johannesburg.

"There is no way in which the killing of an ordinary white traveller passing the townships ... can advance our struggle," Lekota said.



Ballet about Indians

Brazil's rich and powerful elite into the Teatro Amazonas, a 19th century opera house that was built in the middle of the Amazon jungle by rubber barons. It was recently restored for \$8 million and gave its first performance since 1907 on Saturday with a ballet about Indians. (Reuters wirephoto)

### Voice-activated typewriter unveiled

NEWTON, Massachusetts, March 19, (AP): A new, voice-activated "typewriter" is a science-fiction dream-turned-reality that promises to boost productivity and open a world of opportunity for the handicapped.

The DragonDactate voice-typewriter, which was formally unveiled today by DragonSystems Inc., is being hailed as the first of its kind in the world.

"My only regret is that your product didn't come out 20 years ago," Frank Whitney, a quadriplegic Maryland computer scientist, told the company in a letter written on the system. Whitney has used the system for the past year.

The "typewriter," which consists of software and a speech-recognition circuit board for personal computers, allows users to create memos, manuscripts and other documents by speaking instead of typing. Users speak into a microphone and see text appear on a video screen at the rate of 35 words a minute.

The \$9,000 system can recognize 30,000 words and adapt itself to individual speakers. Until now, voice-activated systems had not been able to recognize more than 5,000 words.

The commands are simple. To turn off the system, one says, "voice console: Go to sleep." To turn it on, the command is "voice console: wake up."

### Mugabe accuses rival leader Tekere of plotting assassinations

HARARE, March 19, (AP): President Robert Mugabe yesterday accused his only challenger in upcoming elections of plotting to assassinate political leaders.

"You are playing with fire, my boy," Mugabe, 66, said of Edgar Tekere, his former comrade and co-founder of the ruling party.

Mugabe made the charge in an address to 40,000 supporters in the eastern frontier city of Mutare, Tekere's traditional tribal stronghold.

He did not elaborate on Tekere's alleged plot.

Tekere is to run against Mugabe in presidential and parliamentary elections set for March 28-29.

It will be the first challenge to Mugabe since he led the fight for independence that changed Rhodesia to black-governed Zimbabwe on April 19, 1980.

Mugabe is expected to win the election.

Five other parties vying for seats in the 150-member parliament are given little chance of gaining a significant number of seats.

Tekere's Zanu is expected to win some of the 111 seats being contested. Of the other 39, the ruling party will fill nine. Mugabe will fill 12, and 18 go to tribal chiefs and provincial governors.

### Bush men divided on cut in defence

WASHINGTON, March 19, (AP): Disagreement over the future of drastic changes in the Soviet Union is raising new questions about the size of the US defence budget.

CIA director William Webster testified earlier this month that political changes in the Soviet bloc are irreversible, but Defence Secretary Dick Cheney has maintained that Moscow could resume some of its former confrontational pose.

Treasury Secretary Nicholas S. Brady said yesterday the administration is sticking with Cheney's proposed \$3.2-billion cut in inflation-adjusted defence spending for fiscal 1991 beginning next Oct. 1.

But Webster's testimony is one indication of disagreement within the administration, particularly between Cheney and White House budget director Richard Darman, over whether bigger defence cuts might be acceptable.

A senior White House official who refused to allow his name used was quoted by the New York Times yesterday as saying the "irreversibility" of changes in the Soviet Union makes deeper military spending cuts possible.

The newspaper quoted senior administration officials as saying they were willing to acquiesce to total cuts of \$10 billion to \$11 billion, but adding that Cheney was fighting "the emerging consensus" for such cuts.

Such a cut would produce a fiscal 1991 defence budget of \$296 billion to \$297 billion, roughly the same as this year, compared to the \$303-billion spending plan that Bush submitted to Congress in January.

Bush yesterday called the Times story inaccurate, saying, "I've sat in all of these discussions and there has been no talk about a \$10-billion cut."

Meanwhile, Senate budget committee chairman Jim Sasser called for a \$2-billion cut in the military budget or "3 per cent less for defense than we spent last year."

Bolstering the case for further slashes in defence spending was a comment by the House of Representatives' Armed Services Committee chairman last week.

Representative Les Aspin said the US military now believes the United States and its allies could fight and hold off the Soviet Union in Europe without resorting to nuclear weapons.

"I look at this net assessment and I say, we win. We can go the other way. Nate wins, the good guys win," Aspin said.

### Floods kill 8, leave 3,500 homeless in Alabama

ELBA, Alabama, March 19, (AP): Two days of flooding across south Alabama left at least 3,500 people homeless and killed eight others by yesterday and one town remained a muddy pond a day after its levee failed.

"I cannot begin to imagine everything that's been lost or damaged," said US Rep. Bill Dickinson after taking a helicopter tour of Elba, where 1,500 people were evacuated after the Pea river levee ruptured Saturday.

Sixteen inches (40 centimetre) of rain had fallen in the area in the two days before the earthen barrier gave way. Water covered all but the tops of first-story windows at the Coffee county courthouse, and the city's three public schools were still submerged.

About 45 miles (72 kilometres) downstream in Geneva, emergency workers shored up another levee and continued evacuating residents, who started leaving their homes Friday night.

Rivers throughout southern Alabama swelled to as much as 21 feet (6.5 metres) above flood levels yesterday as the water from the nearly non-stop rains drained toward the Gulf of Mexico.

A small aftershock of the quake that rocked Upland last month jolted southern Californians awake early yesterday, but no damage or injuries were reported.

The aftershock struck at 5:56 am (1356 GMT) and measured 3.0 on the Richter scale, said Robert Finn, a spokesman for the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena.

Its epicentre was 3 miles (5 kilometres) northwest of Upland, he said.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

**Avril loyalists attack:** Machete-wielding supporters of ousted military ruler General Prosper Avril attacked and injured eight nuns at an elite religious school on Sunday, oun at St. Rose de Lima said. Three of the wounded were French.

"As they were beating us they accused us of being responsible for Avril's departure," one of the nuns said.

Four of the eight nuns were taken to a nearby hospital and one was later released.

Political and diplomatic sources had voiced fears in the past week that the dethroned Tonantzin Macoute would strike hard to regain the power they lost when Avril resigned on March 10. (Reuters)

**Sought for questioning:** The FBI said Sunday it had arrested the younger of two brothers wanted for questioning in the bombing of a US Drug Enforcement Administration office.

The firebombing of the DEA office early Saturday, which caused \$4 million in damage but no injuries, came two days after the brothers were indicted on drug charges.

John Lewis Ciganek, 22, was arrested Sunday morning, said special agent Brian Kencel, spokesman for the FBI team investigating the DEA bombing.

He is now in the custody of the FBI, but only on the drug charges, Kencel said, declining to give details of the arrest. "There have been no warrants issued in connection with the explosion." (AP)

**Support for Units rebels:** Soviet-backed Angola condemned the United States on Sunday for "stubbornly" continuing to support right-wing rebels fighting its rule and demanded Washington's neutrality in the 15-year-old civil war.

Foreign Minister Pedro de Castro Van-Dunem told his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze that Angola blamed Washington for helping to fuel the government's war with insurgents of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Units).

He told Shevardnadze, in Luanda on the first leg of a 10-day tour of southern Africa, that Angola was seeking international help to repair damage done by guerrillas in recent raids. (Reuters)

**Mauritanian mediation:** The leaders of Guinea and Gambia arrived in Nouakchott today for a one-day visit to Mauritania and Senegal as part of mediation efforts to reconcile the two West African neighbours.

General Lansana Conte of Guinea and Gambian President Dawda Jawara made no statement at the airport and went straight into talks with Mauritanian President Mauroya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya. (Reuters)

**North African identity cards:** Five North African states took one step closer to forming a common market at the weekend when they agreed in principle to introduce common identity cards and relax travel restrictions.

An official statement said interior ministers from the five members of the Arab Maghreb Union — Mauritania, Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia — met in the Mauritanian capital Nouakchott and urged removal of all obstacles to free movement among them and standardisation of administrative and security procedures. (Reuters)

**Rebels kill captain:** Suspected Muslim secessionist rebels killed a captain and wounded another officer and three other companions in an ambush in the southern Philippines Monday, a military commander said.

Col. Paoyok Macugac, military and police commander of Maguindanao province, said about 20 rebels ambushed Capt. Julian Usman and his four companions along a highway in a village of Parang, about 880 kms (550 miles) south of Manila.

Among those wounded were another captain and a corporal, who were on a jeep going back to Usman's base in this southern city after shopping in Cotabato city, 24 kms (15 miles) to the south. (AP)

## Bid to defuse row over fishing

RABAT, March 19, (Reuters): Morocco and the European Community began talks in Rabat today in a bid to defuse a dispute with Spain over fishing rights in Morocco's coastal waters.

A row blew up on March 8 when Spanish fishing fleets began a blockade of southern ports in Spain to protest a tenfold increase in fines imposed by Morocco for fishing violations.

A senior government official said Morocco would not necessarily impose the maximum fines set in January, which range from \$25 to \$1 million depending on the gravity of the offence and the size of the vessel involved.

He said Morocco was willing to reach an accommodation and give foreign fleets legal guarantees under the four-year fishing accord signed in 1988 with the EEC.

"We have accepted Spain's request for today's meeting as a token of goodwill," he added.

The agreement allows about 700 boats based in southern Spain and the Canary Islands and 75 from Portugal to operate in Moroccan coastal waters, reputed to be among the richest fishing grounds in the world for sardines, tuna and squid.

### Invasion tunnel

SEOUL, March 19, (AP): South Korean defence officials said today they believed a tunnel recently discovered under the border between South and North Korea was maintained by the North Koreans until recently.

South Korean troops, assisted by US military engineers, unearthed a large tunnel inside the demilitarised zone dividing the two Koreas in an eastern sector of the Korean front line on March 3.

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HARARE, March 19, (AP): President Robert Mugabe yesterday accused his only challenger in upcoming elections of plotting to assassinate political leaders.

"You are playing with fire, my boy," Mugabe, 66, said of Edgar Tekere, his former comrade and co-founder of the ruling party.

Mugabe made the charge in an address to 40,000 supporters in the eastern frontier city of Mutare, Tekere's traditional tribal stronghold.

He did not elaborate on Tekere's alleged plot.

Tekere is to run against Mugabe in presidential and parliamentary elections set for March 28-29.

It will be the first challenge to Mugabe since he led the fight for independence that changed Rhodesia to black-governed Zimbabwe on April 19, 1980.

Mugabe is expected to win the election.

Five other parties vying for seats in the 150-member parliament are given little chance of gaining a significant number of seats.

Tekere's Zanu is expected to win some of the 111 seats being contested. Of the other 39, the ruling party will fill nine. Mugabe will fill 12, and 18 go to tribal chiefs and provincial governors.

He also has opposed Mugabe's 10-year-old goal of making Zimbabwe — one of Africa's few Western-style democracies — a one-party state.

"That system has failed in Eastern Europe and everywhere else," Tek

# Banks abandon unified dollar rate

## Central Bank criticises 'Cartel Operation'

LOCAL banks have suspended dealing in the existing dollar selling rates and switched over to the independent pricing system employed by each bank separately.

Quoting local bankers, a daily said that bank officials had decided to cancel the unified price following the infusion of local exchange companies with hard currencies by the Central Bank. This infusion of funds enabled these companies to compete

with banks in pricing the dollar and has started a chain reaction among local banks violating the unified pricing agreement.

### Opportunity

Commenting on the issue, the Governor of the Central Bank, Sheikh Salem Abdul Azz Al Sabah said that he was dissatisfied with the agreement reached by the local banks and described their move as "a Cartel Operation". However, the official

stressed that the bank is capable of dealing with the situation in an effective manner.

Money exchangers at local companies said that they will return to purchasing dollars from the local banks despite the opportunity to obtain dollars from the Central Bank.

The bankers said that the cancellation of the unified rate price would result in banks making less profits from dollar selling

operations, as the banks purchased this hard currency from the Central Bank and sold it to their clients at a marginal profit defined as equalling KD 4 for every \$10,000.

They added that the profit margin would drop to KD 2 for each \$10,000 on the average and might sink deeper if competition grew stronger to reach a projected price of KD 0.500.

## National exports drop, say experts

A MEETING of Arab experts was opened at the Arab Planning Institute (API) based in Kuwait to discuss the developing of Arab exports. Dr Mohammed Said Abdul Aziz from Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry submitted a work paper to the meeting about Arab policies to develop the commercial exchange among Arab countries and the role of Arab trade in developing the agricultural and industrial production in the Arab countries and also focused on the present situation of Arab commerce. The paper showed that Arab commerce accounts for 88 per cent of Arab local production during 1970s but retreated to 60.9 per cent in 1987 due to the drop in oil exports and retreat of imports of many Arab countries because of increasing debts.

### Exports

It added that growth rate of Arab commerce was 4.3 per cent between 1974 and 1987 against 1.7 per cent for exports and 9.3 per cent for imports. Accordingly the position of Arab commerce has changed in the international commerce when Arab exports reduced from 10 per cent (out of total commerce) in 1974 to 4.1 per cent in 1987 while imports increased from 3.6 per cent in 1974 to 4 per cent in 1987. The commerce among Arab countries reached 6.9 per cent of total Arab commerce between 1974 and 1987. The paper added that local production of the Arab countries met 35.4 per cent of total needs of Arab countries in 1985 and increased to 44.2 per cent in 1987. It said that Arab states are still depending on foreign countries in meeting their needs for food although agricultural products reached 11.6 per cent of local production in 1987. The Arab countries succeeded to meet 73 per cent of their needs for foodstuffs in 1986.

On the other hand, engineer Atif Ismael said that the increase in house rents cannot be a direct cause behind spinsterhood among Palestinian females. He added that this may cause a delay in marriage. He said that he will eventually get married when he is capable of paying house rents, at that time he will select a young female.

Many Palestinians indicated that one of the main reasons leading to spinsterhood among females was due to the discrimination of males towards marriage as a result of their poor financial conditions. Mabroum Abdul Karim stated that the increase in rents and the low standard of Palestinian employees salaries who are mostly appointed at the sixth or fifth grade in addition to other household expenses led male youth towards thinking that marriage is unattractive.

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Engineer Mohammad Kaloob stated that continuing

unmarried.



Fahaheel club board

Kuwait's Minister of Interior Sheikh Salem Al Sabah received at his office yesterday the chairman of Fahaheel Sporting Club, Colonel Abdullah Adas who introduced to him the new board of directors of the club.

The Minister welcomed the chairman of the club and the accompanying delegation. Sheikh Salem was presented a commemorative shield in appreciation of his persistent efforts in supporting sports and sportsmen.

## Spinsterhood phenomenon

## Marriage eludes Palestinian girls in Kuwait: survey

LATE marriages among females is almost common in certain types of societies. The word spinster seems to have a sharp impact on the minds of females all over the world.

The spinsterhood phenomenon deserves more attention from us. Here we shed light on spinsterhood among Palestinian females residing in Kuwait. The phenomenon is yet considered a new trend for this community which prefers early marriages for females. What is the age limit when a woman is called a spinster? And what are the causes? Who is responsible? the family, males or females ... Or is it circumstances which the Palestinian community is currently passing through.

The view of Palestinians vary on the age limit in which a female is considered a spinster. Opinions range between considering a female a spinster above the age of 25 years or 30 years.

In this survey, several interviews were conducted with a number of Palestinians residing in Kuwait. Husni Ali Tahha indicated that he considers a female as a spinster when she reaches the age of 30. At the same time, he does not think that there are many Palestinian females above this age and still

unmarried.

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Education in foreign countries and not giving youth the chance for academic education inside Kuwait was the main cause of the spinsterhood phenomenon. He added that most Palestinian youths tend to marry foreign females in the country where they are educated in order to obtain privileges of that country. He pointed out that a larger share of Palestinian males represent this group which eventually leads to spinsterhood among females.

### Education

Um Sadeq on the other hand indicated that continuing education in foreign countries is not the problem but, the bigger problem lies in not giving educated Palestinians the opportunity for equal employment in Kuwait after they return. This case was also the same for other Arab countries which forces youth to settle in foreign countries.

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# Care of handicapped in Kuwait lauded

## Tunisian minister expresses admiration

KUWAIT, March 19, (Kuna): Tunisian State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Nabila Qadana conferred here today with Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed.

The Tunisian official had earlier met with the ministry's undersecretary Issa Yassin with senior officials of both sides attending the two meetings.

Dr Qadana described talks during the two meetings, in a statement to Kuna, as "fruitful and beneficial," and added that

Sheikh Nasser had conveyed to her the concern of HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Premier over bolstering co-operation with Tunisia in all spheres.

### Experiment

She noted that the talks tackled exchanging expertise and experts in social care and catering for the handicapped and elderly through exchanging visits of specialists.

The minister praised the Kuwaiti experiment in catering for the handicapped, describing it as a model to be followed and expressed readiness to supply Kuwait with competent Tunisian cadres in social care in general.

She affirmed identical views of both ministries on maintaining contacts to elevate social and women's activities and underlined that women in Tunisia had covered major strides in assuming leading responsibility in numerous spheres.

Dr Qabana expressed admiration of the Kuwaiti women's activity and efforts by concerned parties topped by the social affairs and labour ministry in social and co-operative fields.

She hoped that her visit would result in mutual benefit for women in the two countries and the Arab world as a whole.

Qabana had stated on arrival here last night that her country greatly appreciated Kuwait's solidarity stance during the recent floods that swept Tunisia.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Amir receives

KUWAIT, March 19, (Kuna): HH the Amir today received head of the Audit Bureau Fares Abdul Rahman Al Wegayat, who presented HH with the bureau's final account statement of the state's financial administration for the 1988-89 fiscal year.

HH praised the important role played by the bureau in preserving national wealth.

### Premier receives

KUWAIT, March 19, (Kuna): HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah today received Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed and of Justice and Legal Affairs Dhari Al Othman.

HH Sheikh Saad also received Kuwait's Ambassador to Egypt Abu Razzaq Al Kandari and board chairman and members of the Kuwaiti Teachers Society.

He also received a number of citizens and representatives of private societies and diwaniyas.

### Unesco cable

KUWAIT, March 19, (Kuna): HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah today received a cable from the Secretary General of the Kuwaiti National Committee for Unesco Suliman Al Onazi, in which he extended gratitude for HH on Kuwait's hosting of a computer training workshop, sponsored by the organisation and the National Committee for Education, Science and Culture.

In a reply cable, Sheikh Saad thanked Onazi for his kind sentiments and hoped for more of these educational gatherings.

### Muslim committee

KUWAIT, March 19, (Kuna): Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Sabah today received secretary-general of the African Muslims Committee Abdul Rahman Al Sumait, who briefed the minister on the committee's activities in Africa.

Sheikh Jaber also received Chairwoman of the Palestinian Women's Union Sihab Al Dabbagh and member of the Child and Woman Committee in the occupied territories Safaa Al Saeer.

### Education seminars

KUWAIT, March 19, (Kuna): Two specialised educational seminars continued today deliberations on means of developing curricula in the Arab Gulf countries.

Experts on English language syllabuses continued their debates on unifying and developing the English language books at various school grades.

Another seminar continued discussing possibility of unifying the science of curriculums in the Arab Gulf countries' secondary stage.

### Intentions doubted

KUWAIT, March 19, (Kuna): A Kuwaiti daily today doubted intentions of the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev concerning the Soviet Jews immigration to occupied Palestine.

A local Arabic daily in its front page editorial said that since the great Arab revolution the Arabs have always trusted the super powers be it London, Paris, Washington or Moscow but at the end "we received a stab in the back."

The paper questioned the aim of the Soviet Jews influx to occupied Palestine, especially such a great number of Soviet Jews leaving at a time when Israel itself barely has "bread, oil and oranges."

"In the Soviet Union there are people have food, not a great amount but sufficient," the paper said, adding that they also have homes and opportunity for education. Can Israel provide all this?" the paper questioned.

## Car for Sale

Embassy Mercedes 200 manual, model 1986, 80,000 kms, excellent condition.

KD 4250/- Contact: 2510355/6 — between 8 am and 12 noon.



Students at traffic department

A student delegation from Khaldiya and Sulaiya Primary Schools for Boys visited the General Traffic Department in order to get acquainted with different sections and the nature of their activities.

The student delegation also visited the permanent traffic exhibit where they looked at the previous features of the General Traffic Department and the developments made during the past three decades.

## Expat investment will support market: Rashid

### Better economy forecast

THE chairman and managing director of Bank of Kuwait and Middle East (BKME) Ali Al Rasheed was quoted as saying that the bank's policy aims at concentrating on the spread of conventional and developed banking services in the local market to coincide with the increase in the bank's local and foreign investment services and expanding the base of its international operations by developing its investment portfolios.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that the bank management is striving to increase its annual income which eventually will reflect on the shareholders' rights.

He was quoted as expecting that the national economy will restore its activities during the current decade and attributed this prospect to the expected improvement in oil prices in the international market in addition to the political stability in the region and the overcoming of the effects of the Iraq-Iran war.

To achieve the targeted goals, a balanced and realistic economic policy must be set up, the official said and added that this could be realised through drawing up of the necessary plans aimed at supporting Kuwait as a developed and effective financial centre which should realise the ultimate utilisation of national resources.

### Observers

Replies to a question, the official said that a lot of financial observers were in agreement that investment funds were playing a major role in investment activities in international markets.

He clarified that this system could gain importance in a country like Kuwait where expatriates represent the majority in the total population. Unfortunately, he said this majority was not allowed to participate in the investment operation. He added that the provision of the necessary opportunities of investments for expatriates through investment funds will definitely support the

market and help finance local development projects. He clarified that the proposed funds will provide the necessary liquidity which could be sufficient for local investment operations and this will encourage local investors to seek the necessary finance required for their projects.

He hoped that the law organising the activities of these funds will be enacted soon, adding that an official control on its activities should be imposed.

Replies to a question whether the Central Bank shall allow local banks to distribute bonus shares or not, the official said that this issue fell within the duties of the board of directors of the local banks and in the framework of the general policy set up by the Central Bank. He clarified, however, that the distribution of bonus shares was connected in general with several objectives such as the increasing of relevant banks' capital and improving of the market value of the shareholders' investments which shall eventually increase the share prices.

He commented that the distribution of bonus shares will prevent the retreat of local banks' share prices.

### Risks

On the description that the Kuwaiti banks were now exposed to more risks, the official categorically denied this rumour, clarifying that Kuwaiti banks have never been considered within high risk. He added, conversely, that the local banks were enjoying an international reputation and were deemed as the best regional banks. He pointed out that Kuwait's bank guarantees and letters of credit were entertained everywhere, adding that Kuwaiti banks were sole banks throughout the world that had been guaranteed by the state.

He pointed out that EEC countries had recently classified banks working in Europe and had suggested two groups of

banks in the world the first of which groups EEC countries, USA, Japan and Saudi Arabia while the second group the other countries including Kuwait clarifying that such classification had been exposed to several technical criticisms, adding that this classification will be subject to some revisions before the final endorsement by the authorities concerned in Europe.

### Workforce

Commenting on the Central Bank's support to be extended to the local banks he said it will be conditioned by the increase of the national workforce in these banks.

Local banks are keen to develop their activities and operations as well as the upgrading of its technical apparatus, referring that the national workforce constitutes a major role in the banks' activities.

He clarified that the local banks have done their part to develop national cadres and to increase the Kuwaiti employees percentage in the local banks.

The state represented by the Central Bank is paying special concern to this vital issue and is striving to surmount any obstacles that may impede the implementation of this policy.

Meanwhile, the official has expected that the state will continue its support to the local banks through the support of the Banking Studies Institute to help increase the number of national graduates qualified to work in the banking sector.

Quoting medical sources at the ministry, a local daily said that the ministry has suspended the appointment of pharmacists under the item on remunerations in response to instructions from the Civil Service Commission.

Sources added that the issue

has received the support from the minister himself and a meeting will be held within the coming few days to discuss the full fledged appointment of these trainee pharmacists.

### MOH appointments

THE Ministry of Health is considering appointing all trainee pharmacists presently working at the ministry's health centres and hospitals as full time employees.

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### UAE — China

SHARJAH, March 19, (Kuna): The visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen met here yesterday with the member of the UAE Supreme Council, Ruler of Sharjah Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi.



Farewell to UAE envoy

Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah received yesterday the UAE ambassador to Kuwait, Yousef Al Sarker. The ambassador bid farewell to Sheikh Salem at the end of his tenure in Kuwait.

## Missing the connection ...

By Jadranka Porter  
Arab Times staff

WITH the advent of Ramadan and with the summer not too far behind Kuwait-hosted conferences, symposia and seminars will soon enter a seasonal lull. Not that anyone will be distressed.

International, regional and national professional gatherings held in Kuwait, be they on energy, medicine or finance, are often boring and of little use. Participants complain that they fail to provide a lively exchange of information and new insights into the subject matter.

As one speaker at this week's banking seminar said these meetings stand or fall on coffee break conversations when valuable contacts can be made and information exchanged. "The best part are lunches and dinners" quipped one expatriate accountant.

Cynicism aside, they seem to produce too little to justify the money and time spent.

Not that Kuwait cannot attract the best speakers. But even top foreign professionals are not guaranteed for a successful conference.

Some speak at length about their speciality but are unable to make the all-important connection between their expertise and its application in Kuwait. Their comments on the local aspects, if included, often amount to no more than a footnote.

Those who are knowledgeable about the area tend to sidestep the real issues out of consideration for the host country or even worse because they are locked in a kind of client-pymaster relationship.

To prop up his academic discourse at a finance conference in Kuwait last year a California academic, advising Kuwaitis on their investments in Japan, cited the examples of Mexico and Taiwan. He could not be brought to speak of cases closer to home.

"What we often get is either sales talk or indepth analysis of the Latin American situation" complained a Saudi-based banker who frequently attends meetings in the region.

In answer to such complaints a foreign finance expert addressing recently a group of Kuwaiti bankers said: "It is difficult for me to tell you about the

banking system in Kuwait."

More than difficult it is risky. A few home truths could put personal reputations and company interests in the area at stake.

The end result is that local participants feel they are being shortchanged and are naturally disgruntled.

But the larger portion of the blame lies with the homegrown officials and experts. It is primarily their duty to set the tone at locally held international meetings. Yet, too often mid-level Kuwaiti and expatriate professionals are coaxed into saying what they are told to say or altogether refrain from the discussion. There have been cases when "awkward" questions have not been answered, or even worse the inquirer was silenced. The questioning of public policy and criticism are not looked upon kindly and are often replaced by platitudes.

Workshops are not what they should be with some local participants showing overwhelming preference for being talked at than entering a discussion.

If held in the afternoons, outside the working hours, they are poorly attended.

### Objectivity

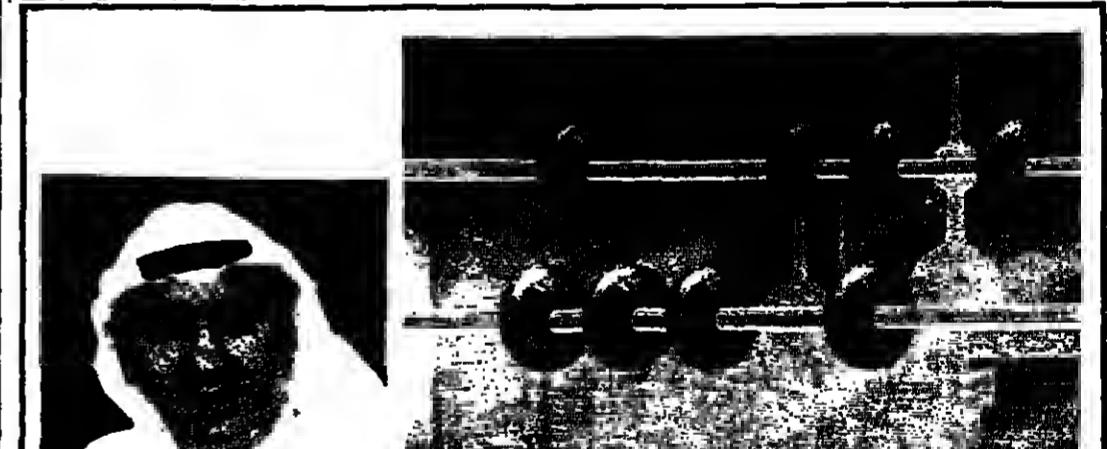
This is not exactly the fertile ground for foreign experts and it comes as no surprise that some cannot be bothered to prepare original material or update their papers for presentation in Kuwait.

Some openly admit that they save their best material for publication or announcement before a more authoritative audience usually in the West. The Arab experts as well are known to speak more freely and objectively at conferences outside the Arab world.

Participation in some of the local seminars could be a costly affair and questions are being raised whether the participants are getting their worth's worth.

A two-day seminar/workshop meeting on Gulf Banking and Finance organised by the Middle East Economic Digest this week cost KD 180. "Information is expensive, if you get it" said one banker who attended.

If you don't, it is better you attend food promotions and folk festivals. They cost less and at least your appetite is sated.



## Gulf Bank Introduces Far Eastern Unit Trust

Kuwait, 17 March, 1990: Dr. Yousef Al-Awadi, CEO and Chief General Manager of the Gulf Bank announced today the introduction of five Far Eastern unit trusts under the Gulf Bank's Diversified Investment Services (DIS) umbrella. The unit trusts, managed for the Bank by Jardine Fleming, Hong Kong, are available exclusively in the Far Eastern markets and currently has in excess of US\$3.6 billion under management.

Commenting on the trusts, Dr. Al-Awadi said, "The Gulf Bank is excited about the opportunity these high performing trusts have for the investors in Kuwait. The Japanese and Far Eastern markets have shown historic strong growth. The overall soundness of markets coupled with both the expertise and experience of our managers suggests continued opportunities for long term growth at levels well above those of alternative investments."

The trusts launched today are, the Japan Trust, the Japan Technology Trust, the Asian Trust, the Pacific Income Trust, and the Hong Kong Trust.

The Japan Trust, begun in 1969, is one of the oldest trusts invested exclusively in the Japanese market. During 1989 the fund produced a yield of 54.6 per cent compared to a gain of 22.2 per cent for the main stock market index. The fund is managed to secure long term capital growth for the investor with an emphasis on consumer products companies.

The Japan Technology Trust, begun in 1981, has had an overall annualized yield of 39.1 per cent. The Japanese have devoted considerable resources to the research and development of high technology systems in the areas of electronics, materials, and pharmaceuticals. The trust's performance is reflective of the profits these technology companies have achieved in the world markets.

The Asian Trust, launched in 1983, is invested in major companies listed on the Indonesian, Malaysian, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand stock exchanges. As a diversified international trust the managers invest only in the highest quality issues in each market. The trust is managed for long term capital growth with a lower risk level. Since launch the trust has had an average annualized yield of 36.2 per cent.

Information on DIS unit trusts is available 24 hours a day through the Bank's Hotline at 2430362. All of the DIS products are available at any office of the bank.

## Seminar on retarded children in Kuwait

THE Faculty of Education at Kuwait University under the theme Development of Public Education in Kuwait, recently held a seminar at the premises of the faculty situated in Kifan entitled "Retarded Children in Kuwait — The Reality and the Rights."

The seminar was hosted by the Chairman of Kuwait Society for Handicapped Care 'Abdu Rahman Salem Al Ateeqi, Dr Kamal Mursi from the Faculty of Education, the Director of Private Education at the Ministry of Education, Mohammed Al Humaidi and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Khalifa School, Luwai Al Ghani.

Mursi said that patronising the cause of retarded children constitutes a social, economic and religious need and commented that patronage should be provided at an early age. He commented that retarded children should be classified into several denominations according to their intelligence quotient.

Luwai Al Ghani also speaking at the seminar said that the patronage for the handicapped in Kuwait is at a low

## MIDEAST

## Carter blasts Israel for human rights violations

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 19, (Reuters): Former US president Jimmy Carter, on a tour of the Middle East, strongly condemned Israeli human rights violations against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

"What we are talking about is the military government that is in effect, is depriving people under its control of their basic human rights," said Carter to reporters as he left a meeting of the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem.

Palestinians have risen up against Israeli rule in the occupied territories for

more than 27 months. More than 800 Palestinians and 44 Jews have been killed in the uprising.

Carter, who later met Palestinian nationalist leaders in Arab East Jerusalem, said he was deeply disturbed by the statistics produced by B'Tselem.

"Here you have a democratic government that for almost 23 years has been responsible for the lives of these people," said Carter, who brokered the Camp David accords that led to the 1979 peace treaty between Israel and Egypt.

"And they are still demolishing homes, they are still putting them in prison without charges — they don't

have a chance to see their families, they don't even have a chance to face their accusers and they stay in prison for as much as a year."

In attempts to crush the uprising, Israel has widely used administrative detention under which it can hold Palestinians without bringing formal charges for up to a year.

Carter, citing B'Tselem figures, said that almost a quarter of all adult males in the occupied territories had been jailed at some point during the uprising and about 9,000 Palestinians were now being held.

"There's hardly a family that lives in

the West Bank and Gaza Strip who hasn't had one of the male members actually incarcerated by the military authorities since the intifada (uprising) started, and that's about 100,000," he said.

Carter met yesterday with leaders of Israel's two rival political parties whose coalition dissolved over the Middle East peace process.

Carter brought with him a message from Syrian President Hafez Assad that Damascus backs a peace process in the region. While in Amman Saturday, Carter said Assad's message also included Syria's desire to enter into direct negotia-

tions with Israel as part of an international peace conference regarding the demilitarisation of the Golan Heights, once Syrian and now Israeli-annexed.

In Tunis, a senior Palestinian leader Khaled El Hassan said yesterday he supported Carter's efforts to bring Syria and Israel into direct peace talks through an international conference.

El Hassan, Central Committee member of the main Palestinian commando group Fatah, also called for a meeting between Syrian President Hafez El Assad and Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Former US president Jimmy Carter (right) waves as he meets with Labour leader Shimon Peres on a hotel terrace overlooking occupied Jerusalem's walled Old City behind. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Jordan to probe fraud in secrecy

AMMAN, March 19, (Reuters): Jordan's parliament, under public pressure to investigate corruption and financial mismanagement, voted yesterday to grapple with the issue in secret.

"For the sake of the investigation, it is better to keep a tight lid on the information until it reaches the judiciary," Justice Minister Yousef Mherineh told the 80-seat house, which decided to consider a report on corruption by its finance committee in closed session tomorrow.

Committee members said they had documents that might serve as ground for legal action but insisted secrecy was needed to curb gossip. Other deputies called for openness.

"A secret session would do more harm than good," said Salim Al-Saleh, a pro-Syrian Druze sympathiser. "Such meetings would open the door for rumours and confusion among the citizens."

Yusuf Qawar, a finance committee member, said it had proposed reviewing certain government contracts for possible irregularities.

"Any project is mentioned — people will immediately identify the suspect. There were many officials with such respect," he said.

Deputies said it wanted to submit detailed documents to the committee to turn up an 88-million-euro corruption

case, including those of the Muslim Brotherhood, which was due to begin November's investigation to investigate corruption of the state.

Finance Minister Nader Badran announced to co-operate with parliament in uncovering any corruption and will propose legislation on financial crime.

The finance committee recommended that parliament reject amendments to tax legislation passed by the government as a temporary law just before the parliamentary election.

Finance Minister Basel Jarash, shepherding Jordan along a reform path agreed with the International Monetary Fund, responded angrily that this would strip 20 million dinars (\$30 million) from government revenue in 1991.

Finance committee members, arguing that it would cost the treasury less than seven million dinars (\$10.3 million), gave Jarash four days to prove his case to the house.

The minister said tax accounted for barely three per cent of gross domestic product, low compared with Jordan's neighbours.

He said the government would have to find new ways to balance its budget if the tax changes were axed, and challenged the house to say if it wanted higher customs duties or cuts in food subsidies or state services instead.

Some deputies said Jordan should care less about the IMF and more about social and economic needs.

### Islamic centre

DAH, March 19, (Kuwa): An Islamic centre has been inaugurated on the Greek island of Crete, the first such centre for Arab and Islamic studies in the region. It was announced here today.

International Islamic News Agency (INNA) said that the centre includes sections for the Arab and Islamic sciences and a scientific library for oriental studies in Crete's universities.

## Najib calls for party congress after purge

Plans to end PDPA monopoly on power

KABUL, March 19, (Reuters): Afghan President Najibullah has called for a congress of his ruling party after purging the central committee of members linked to the failed coup attempt on March 6.

"We announced two years ago that we are giving up monopoly of power, but in practice we have changed our stand very little so far," the official Bakhtar news agency quoted him as telling a party central

committee meeting yesterday.

"We have to convene the second congress of the party," he said without mentioning a date.

Najib also called yesterday for Afghanistan's ruling party to give up its monopoly on power, the agency reported.



### Relief debris

A lighter of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front strolls past debris of bags of relief food, still smouldering, three weeks after the battle for Masawa. The

bags of wheat, donated by the European Economic Community, were used as fortification sandbags by Eritrean troops. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Clashes flare in Lebanon

BEIRUT, March 19, (Agencies): Rival Christian forces traded mortar and gunfire in East Beirut today, while Shite Muslim militias pounded each other with artillery and tank fire in south Lebanon, police reported.

They said one soldier of renegade Gen. Michel Aoun's army was wounded in gunbattles with Lebanese Forces militiamen of Christian warlord Samir Geagea in East Beirut's Sin El Fil residential district.

In Ballouneh, Lebanon, the ashes still glowed as Red crosses lifted six charred corpses from an underground shelter that became an inferno of blazing fuel.

"That's Rami. Those are his jeans and shoes," sobbed a relative of the Hasbani family as the first body appeared.

The shoes were very small because Rami Diah was only four years old when he died during an inter-Christian battle on Saturday.

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... prepare the catalogue of Armenian Patriarch Shnorhik Calusian to be held at Istanbul's Virgin Mary Church for the funeral ceremony of the spiritual leader of Turkey's 60,000 Armenian community. (Reuters wirephoto)

### Gaza-Egypt tunnel link discovered

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 19, (Reuters): Israel has discovered two tunnels linking the occupied Gaza Strip to Egypt used by smugglers and illegal emigrants, the army said today.

An army spokeswoman said defence forces uncovered the tunnels in the past month near the Palestinian town of Rafah on Israel's border with Egypt.

Israel and army radios said wanted activists of the 27-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule in the occupied territories sometimes used the tunnels as escape routes.

The Israeli Knesset, or parliament, voted Thursday to bring down the government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir after the Israeli leader refused to compromise and accept Baker's proposal for a Palestinian delegation to talks with Israel.

Gaza police spokesman Yigal Golan said they were conduits for smuggling drugs, gold and money and originated in residents' homes near the border.

## Next move is Israel's

Baker's plan remains in balance

CAYENNE, French Guiana, March 19, (UPI): US Secretary of State James Baker said the next step in the Middle East peace must be taken by Israel, whose government collapsed last week because of bitter divisions over an American plan to promote talks with the Palestinians.

"What happens now is a matter for the Israelis to determine. It is an internal matter within Israel," Baker told reporters aboard his plane en route to Windhoek, Namibia, for independence ceremonies.

Baker's remarks indicate he is not planning to undertake new efforts to push forward the peace process until Israeli political leaders are able to put together a new government.

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The current plan to release the hostages was sabotaged by Iranian hardliners opposed to Rafsanjani, ABC correspondent Pierre Salinger reported.

WASHINGTON, March 19, (AP): Efforts by moderate officials in Iran to push for the release of hostages being held in the Mideast have been derailed by hardliners opposed to Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani, ABC news said last night.

In a report from Paris attributed to sources within the Hezbollah movement in Lebanon, the US television news programme reported that leaders of groups holding hostages in Lebanon were summoned to Tehran for meetings last week.

The current plan to release the hostages was sabotaged by Iranian hardliners opposed to Rafsanjani, ABC correspondent Pierre Salinger reported.

"The hostage leaders returned to Lebanon three days ago and one of the organisations, Islamic Jihad, issued a statement saying the hostages would not be released," he said. "This position was confirmed at a secret meeting in Lebanon 48 hours ago."

The sources were not further identified.

US government spokesman Alixie Glen said last night there would be no White House reaction to the report.

There had been several weeks of hints that the hostage issue might be moving toward a solution until March 15 when Islamic Jihad threatened to kill three captive American educators unless its demands were met regarding Jewish

immigration from the Soviet Union. The demands were not spelled out.

The Tehran Times newspaper in Iran, which has close ties to Rafsanjani, said in recent editorials that the hostages should be freed on humanitarian grounds.

Rafsanjani himself said he thought the issue was moving toward a solution.

Also, Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadallah, spiritual guide of Hezbollah, said last month in a sermon that a humanitarian means of freeing the hostages must be found.

The longest held of 18 Western hostages is Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent of the Associated Press, abducted in Beirut on March 16.

Most of the others have been missing at least three years.

In Cyprus Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and his Syrian counterpart Farouk Al Sharara met for two hours to discuss Damascus-Tehran links and international developments, the official Islamic Republic News Agency said today.

Iran's Velayati stressed the need for stronger ties between Persian Iran and Arab Syria during the talks yesterday after Sharara arrived in the Iranian capital for a two-day visit.

The Iran dispatch, monitored in Nicosia, did not mention the issue of the foreign hostages in Lebanon.

The agency said officials of the two countries frequently discuss Lebanon, the Middle East and the Muslim world.

Last month Sharara told Peggy Anderson, sister of American hostage Terry Anderson, that he would raise the issue of Iranian help to free the 18 Westerners held in Lebanon by pro-Iranian groups.

He said he would "work intensively with Iranian leaders" for the hostages' release and would bring up the subject during his trip to Tehran.

President Rafsanjani has said he believes the issue of the hostages is moving toward a solution, but the radical faction that opposes him has argued against their release.

## Dealers using deaf mutes

DAMASCUS, March 19, (Reuters): Drug traffickers in Syria, facing stepped up vigilance from police, have thought up a new ploy — using deaf and dumb people to smuggle in their narcotics.

Six deaf mutes have recently been caught trying to bring in hashish from neighbouring Lebanon, police told Reuters. They were questioned through an expert from a medical centre who knew their sign language.

"The purpose of using handicapped smugglers" is to divert attention from them and to make it difficult for investigators to discover the real smugglers who are using them," said Colonel Ali Darbooli, chief of Syria's anti-narcotics bureau.

Darbooli said hashish arrived mainly from Lebanon and heroin from Turkey.

As part of tougher steps to fight traffickers Damascus was cooperating closely with other countries, Darbooli said. "We foiled several smuggling attempts through co-operation with countries like Jordan, Saudi Arabia and West Germany," he said.

Interior Minister Mohammad Harbi stressed his determination to halt the flow of drugs in talks December with US Ambassador to Syria Edward Djerejian, Darbooli added.

Syria also attends regular meetings held in Cyprus by drug squads from several countries.

Syrian police seized 1.67 tonnes of hashish and 18.16 kilos (40 pounds) of heroin last year, up from 1.13 tonnes of hashish and 10.7 kilos (23.5 pounds) of heroin in 1988, he added.

Nearly 302,000 tablets of the drug khatogen were confiscated in 1989, more than double the 1988 haul of 136,000.

Courts heard 696 drug smuggling cases involving 3,190 people last year against 582 cases involving 2,332 people in 1988.

APs said late yesterday that a couple, their four children and a grandfather died of asphyxiation in a flat in the capital. It did not say when the accident took place.

APs expected to meet with Jordanian viceroy and Crown Prince Hassia Bin Talal to hand over the message.

Sierra Leone and Jordan are bound by joint agreement on air freight and aviation.

Agudat Israel's decision emerged as crucial after leaders of the six-member sephardic shas, or "torah guardians," party told Herzog on Sunday that Likud was their choice to form a new government.

The decision by the Agudat Israel rabbis in the Tel Aviv religious suburb of Bnei Brak came after Likud put intensive pressure on the party to drop its support of Shas.

The Shas Party told President Chaim Herzog yesterday that it backed another unity government led by Shamir's rightist Likud Party provided it would accept a US proposal for the first Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Cairo.

Labour officials bet that Likud will be unable to agree to the Shas conditions because of pressure from party hardliners.

But Shas' recommendation was nevertheless a blow to Peres, who hoped to get its endorsement to set up the next government.

"We would have been much happier had they decided to recommend Peres," an official close to the Labour leader told Reuters. "But let's wait and see who Agudat Israel will recommend."

Meanwhile, Agudat Israel decided today to throw their support behind Likud.

MEET ON SA

CAIRO, March 19, (Kuwa): Meetings of the fourth session of an ad hoc committee on South Africa today opened in Lusaka, Zambia.

Radio Cairo reported today that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak chaired the session in his capacity as current president of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

The committee, which are attended by thirteen heads of state, will discuss a report submitted by OAU, the development of South Africa and means of pressuring the liberation movement to end the armed struggle.

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## EVENTS



## Turkish fashion show at the Kuwait International

By Lima Al Khalafawi  
Arab Times staff

**LAUGH** embroidered Turkish traditional and modern clothes went on show on Friday at the Kuwait International Hotel.

The oriental collection show was

dominated with barem pants and embroidered capes and jackets adorned with touches of silver and gold.

A group of six models were swaying and moving their hands gracefully to the lively oriental music that carried guests to the East. The colours were a mangle of

mauvess, oranges, mustards and olive greens that displayed good taste of harem costumes in the old times. Gowns, long skirts and salwars were of silk, velvet and linen.

The modern Turkish collection followed and simultaneously the modern

rhythms of Turkish music subtly changed with applause from the audience. The variation of long and short, skirts and salwars, pants and dresses showed the current trend that has an influence of the unfaded exquisite Turkish designs.

A Turkish wedding ceremony was

portrayed in front of the guests when six girls holding candles accompanying a bride showed how a bride was prepared for the ceremony.

The Turkish festival and fashion show that took place on March 16-19, was

praised by the people.

## WHAT'S ON

### ARTS

**Watercolours of Arabia**  
Recent watercolours by Patricia Millins on exhibition at the studio, the Tareq Rajab Museum, Jabiya, Saturday thru Thursday 9:30 to 12 and 4:30 to 8 pm, from March 6 to 20, 1990. Tel: 5315397: or 5318060.

**Sultans Gallery**  
INDIAN artist Shamina Farid is showing a collection of her latest works at the Sultan Gallery, near Rolls Royce showroom. A wide selection of subjects are featured in the paintings of the artist, who has exhibited widely in Kuwait and overseas. However, this is Shamina's first solo-exhibition in Kuwait. Open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 4 to 8 pm.

**SAS Hotel**  
EXHIBITION of water colour and oil paintings as well as stained glass at the lobby until March 20.

### SOCIAL

**Bengali drama**  
"BANDHAN" Natty Chakra, Kuwait, a Bengali drama group, is going to perform its third stage show, a Bengali drama, "Boudir Beay" on Thursday, March 22 at 5 pm in the Starlight Theatre at Doha Entertainment City, Kuwait.

The Ambassador of Bangladesh in Kuwait Mr. K. M. Schabuddin will be the chief guest.

For entry cards, please contact the following persons: Abdur Rah, Tel. 4316823; Jasim Uddin, Tel. 2420484; Mian Mohammad Hanif, Tel. 4849100, Ext. 104 and Video A to Z, Tel. 3924320.

**Ladies International League**  
THERE will be a coffee morning for newcomers to L.I.L. and Kuwait on Sunday March 25 at the Sheraton Hotel in the Green Room from 10 am to 12 noon. All are welcome. For more information contact 3919759.

### Private Lives

Badesik Diploma Engineers' Society in Kuwait (Badesik) has organised its annual picnic to be held in Mangaf family beach on March 23. The events included the prize distribution of recently completed indoor games and the children sports to be played on the spot. Bangladesh Ambassador to Kuwait K.M. Shehabuddin will be the chief guest.

All Badesik members are requested to contact general secretary Khalid Rahman on 4330025 for more details.

### Summer Affair '90

THE Weekend Club will host their traditional "Summer Affair" on the first day of Eid Al Fitr (April 26) at the Regency Palace Hotel. Watch

or participate in the selection and crowning of the 1990 Summer Queen, join in a Jive Contest, watch a scintillating display of "Lambada" or simply let your feet loose to the music of Top Rank and Perfect Strangers. Gala buffet, loads of prizes and most important have a good time. For reservations call 4315425 (Julie), 5741380 or 4890566.

### Narmada's Malayalam play

NARMADA Theatre will be staging a social Malayalam play, "A Love Mantra From Ujjain", at Indian Arts Circle auditorium. Funaitees on Friday, May 11, 1990 at 6:30 pm. Written by Varghese Paul, lyrics by Rajendra Babu, music by Antony Joseph, the play is co-directed by Sherly John and directed by Jayan Pattathu. Various characters are being represented by popular stage artists among the Malayalee community in Kuwait.

### Bangladesh get-together

A NUMBER of Bangladeshi families will hold a spring get-together at the Rawda Park, Damascus Street on March 23.

The day-long programme, which starts at 8 am, will include children's games, ladies and gents games and bingo.

For details, contact telephone 3725312, 4315352, 4715734, or 3713923.

### Danella Desert Rally

The annual family rally for Danes will take place on Friday, March 23. For registration, please call Henrie - Tel: 3727688/92 ext. 246.

### Rose Ferns' drama

MAY 10-11: Expatriates Club proudly announces that

Goa's celebrated king of

century shows Rose Ferns, and his

sixteen member troupe, will

present at the Granada Cinema

hall, Kbeitan, bis premier

release in Kuwait "Xinx" (Broken Glass) and "Berman Tum" (You Ungrateful) which

has already crossed the hundred plus mark in Goa. More details later.

### Konkani non-stop show

A KONKANI non-stop show entitled Koxti Ani Sontos (Hardships & Happiness), written and directed by Epa de Utorda, organised by Utorda Lourdes Boys will be staged on July 6, 1990 at 3:30 pm. Venue: Labour Union Hall, Maidan Hawalli.

For more information contact 4817857.

### Ladies International League of Kuwait upcoming events

LIL Desert Picnic on Friday, March 23, 1990. Members and their guests. For further information and tickets please contact Barbara on 5325131. Deadline for tickets is March 17.

### Yoga lessons

FOR FITNESS and slimming, Kuwait International Hotel offers Yoga lessons for ladies and men, every Sunday and Tuesday at 8:00 to 9:00 pm and on Friday from 10:30 to 11:30 am. For more information contact Antonie Kingma on 2533000 or Tanya on 5626529.

### Bangladesh get-together

A NUMBER of Bangladeshi families will hold a spring get-together at the Rawda Park, Damascus Street on March 23.

The day-long programme, which starts at 8 am, will include children's games, ladies and gents games and bingo.

For details, contact telephone 3725312, 4315352, 4715734, or 3713923.

### Danella Desert Rally

The annual family rally for Danes will take place on Friday, March 23. For registration, please call Henrie - Tel: 3727688/92 ext. 246.

### Rose Ferns' drama

MAY 10-11: Expatriates Club proudly announces that

Goa's celebrated king of

century shows Rose Ferns, and his

sixteen member troupe, will

present at the Granada Cinema

hall, Kbeitan, bis premier

release in Kuwait "Xinx" (Broken Glass) and "Berman Tum" (You Ungrateful) which

has already crossed the hundred plus mark in Goa. More details later.

### Konkani non-stop show

A KONKANI non-stop show entitled Koxti Ani Sontos (Hardships & Happiness), written and directed by Epa de Utorda, organised by Utorda Lourdes Boys will be staged on July 6, 1990 at 3:30 pm. Venue: Labour Union Hall, Maidan Hawalli.

For more information contact 4817857.

### German-speaking Cultural Association

THE forthcoming annual election will take place on Monday, March 26, 1990, 8 pm, at Kuwait International Hotel, Ahmad Room. All ladies and gentlemen of the German-speaking community are requested to attend.

### British Council

DO YOU want to learn English in Britain or maybe you know someone who does? If so, come along the Education Office at The British Council on Monday March 19 or Tuesday March 20. We will be showing videos about language schools in Britain and giving away lots of information about courses, fees, accommodation etc. All are welcome!

### Children's Books of the Year

1989 Exhibition — March 10-22 at The British Council Galleri.

Wednesday, March 21, 6:00 pm — Film showing: Asterix in Britain, The Movie. Go back, far back in time when the Britons stopped fighting for a tea break at 4:00 pm and everyone drank hot water with a little milk because tea hadn't been discovered yet. (75 min).

Thursday, March 22, 10:30 am. Story Time by a professional story teller.

Please book seats by calling Tel. 2515512; 2533204; 2533227.

### HOTELS

#### Bits 'n' Pieces

AN interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

#### Le Meridien

A Konkani non-stop show entitled Koxti Ani Sontos (Hardships & Happiness), written and directed by Epa de Utorda, organised by Utorda Lourdes Boys will be staged on July 6, 1990 at 3:30 pm. Venue: Labour Union Hall, Maidan Hawalli.

For more information contact 4817857.

topping include chocolate, honey, jam or marmalade, maple syrup and chantilly cream.

### Al Fingal Tea Lounge

feature Bananarama Festival from 18th until 22nd March. One can have a variety of choices of mouthwatering banana sweets such as banana fritters with honey, banana tarte, banana tartlettes, chocolate banana and banana charlotte.

Special banana drinks include banana milk shake and banana strawberry cocktail. One can also enjoy our special banana split ice cream.

### SPORTS

#### Danella Bowling

ALL Danes are invited to participate in the first ever Danella Bowling Tournament on April 5, 1990, at 6 pm. For further information and registration please call Connie - Tel: 3715637 or Marianne - Tel: 3720137 before March 26.

### PRAYERS

|         |         |
|---------|---------|
| Fair    | 4:33 am |
| Zohr    | 11:56   |
| Aср     | 3:23 pm |
| Maghreb | 5:59    |
| Isha    | 7:16    |

### Oh Clarence

## Kuwait Little Theatre

KUWAIT Little Theatre's latest production is the comedy *Ob Clarence*, written by John Chapman and based on the Lord Emsworth books by P.G. Wodehouse.

The play starts on a beautiful summer's day in 1927 with Clarence, the ninth Earl of Emsworth, content with his lot in life. My pumpkins are a picture, there is no sign of my son and all's well with the world.

Unfortunately for Clarence the storm clouds are gathering on the horizon. His son Freddie, who came for a short visit and is still around after a month, has fallen in love with a girl who is the niece of Clarence's hated neighbour, Sir Gregory Parsloe. To add to Clarence's troubles his sister decides to invite Sir Gregory and his niece to stay for the weekend. To add to the hilarity Clarence's own niece arrives to stay the weekend to try to forget a bad love affair, her love arrives in disguise, and an old flame of Clarence's turns up, still keen on Clarence but her

feelings are not reciprocated.

Like all good comedies, it all turns out right in the end, but to get there involves a tortuous and comical route.

The part of Clarence is played by Steven Lane a newcomer to the Kuwait Little Theatre. Other newcomers are Rachel Johnstone, Sue Dorrington and Elizabeth Crosby. The other members of the cast are Maureen Wringe, Hilary Jones, David Burfoot, Jim Williams, Roger Gribble, Derek Fryer, David Dorrington, and Billy Gribble. All of whom have shown in the past that they are fine comedy actors. There are two 'ex Pantomime Dames' in the cast but neither of them will be wearing a frock this time.

The play is directed by David Dorrington and starts at the Kuwait Little Theatre on Monday, March 19, with the gala night. Other performances follow on until Thursday, March 22. Tickets are only KD3 and they can be had by telephoning 3919759.

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## EDITORIALS

## ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

THE most manifest sign of wisdom is continued cheerfulness — Michel Montaigne, French essayist (1533-1592).

## Tax proves her undoing

## Thatcher victim of own success

LONDON, (AP): In the streets, tax protesters burn Margaret Thatcher's effigy and in the inner sanctums of her nervous 'Conservative' Party there is talk of trying to dump her this autumn.

Her closest supporters are convinced she will ultimately triumph, but the Thatcherite free-market revolution has hit its roughest patch since she swept to power in 1979.

Thatcher has weathered tough spells before. But this time things look dangerously different for the prime minister who has dominated Britain through the 1980s and challenged its every institution, from the welfare state, through lawyer's monopolies to the labour unions.

What began as a blip in inflation in the spring of 1988 has turned into a crisis undermining the core of her political success: the sense she gave millions of Britons that even if they didn't like her, she made them better off.

"There was never a widespread acceptance of her enterprise culture," Robert Skidelsky, professor of international studies at Warwick University, said in an interview.

## Accepted

"But she was accepted as a very strong leader, someone who had got the economy under control and brought a tremendous increase in living standards in real terms... suddenly all that has started to come unstuck and her strongest claim to rule is undermined."

In the past 20 months, a doubling of interest rates in an attempt to curb inflation has sent the cost of home loans and other credit soaring. Hardest-hit are millions of new homeowners, small businesses and skilled blue-collar workers — people who symbolize Thatcherism and her strongest claim to rule is undermined."

Meanwhile, inflation, just 3.3 per cent two years ago, remains stubbornly high at around eight per cent.

"In the beginning I thought her ideas were brilliant," says Sheila Jackson, who lives with her husband, a 140-pound-a-week (230-dollar-a-week) plaster, and two children on a public housing estate in Weymouth, southern England.

"We were going to buy our house this year. Now that's on hold because of the interest payments... you feel you're getting nowhere with her. I'm ashamed to say I voted for her."

This sudden loss of spending power is worsened by a property tax reform that was supposed to be Thatcherism's master stroke, but is looking like a serious political miscalculation.

By changing the system from graded levies on property to a straight head tax on every adult, Thatcher thought she could demonstrate to voters that Tories run local government more cheaply than the socialist opposition, the Labour Party.

## Poll tax

Instead, the so-called poll tax is costing the average household about one-third more — 675 (\$107) — from April 1, and Thatcher is getting the blame.

Demonstrators fought running battles with police and invaded town halls all over England, and the Conservatives have sunk to their lowest ratings for nearly two decades — up to 20 points behind Labour.

It presents the 64-year-old prime minister with a fundamental quandary.

She has built her prestige on a refusal to shirk unpopular measures for the sake of popularity. To back down is simply not in this grocer's daughter's nature.

But unless she relents on the poll tax, she will alienate voters as well as members of her own party who fear for their seats in the next election.

Many Britons have long regarded Europe's first woman prime minister as dogmatic, bossy and extreme. Surveys marking her 10th anniversary in power last May showed majorities still oppose some key tenets of her mission to demolish socialism, such as selling off state-owned industries and reforming the national health, education and legal systems.

But until now, the grocer's daughter from Grantham, a small town in central England, could demonstrate that whatever the intelligentsia thought, she was in touch with ordinary people: tough on crime, patriotic enough to wage war for an obscure colony like the Falklands, strong enough to face down powerful trade unions.

But the poll tax has made even her staunchest supporters wonder.

"It was a blunder, putting at risk for the first time Mrs Thatcher's claim to be the authentic voice of middle England," commented Peregrine Worsthorne in London's right-wing Sunday Telegraph.

## Writing off

No one is writing off Thatcher's chances of leading the Conservatives to an unprecedented fourth successive victory at the next election, which must be held by mid-1992.

"I am very happy in the business I do, very happy indeed," she said recently.

Last November, however, she faced a challenger for the first time at the annual election of party leader, and although she won handsomely, there is now at least a possibility that her critics will try again this year. If she loses, she automatically ceases to be prime minister.

"The idea that Margaret Thatcher may no longer be prime minister by the autumn must now be taken seriously," said the respected weekly *The Economist*.

Favourite as successor is Michael Heseltine, 57, a charismatic former defence secretary who is projecting himself as the Tory who will usher in a kinder, gentler post-Thatcherite age.

Thatcher aides argue that inflation and interest rates will inevitably fall by year's end, if only because the government must create a pre-election recovery. But even then, Thatcher seems in for a much tougher ride.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

1602 — United East India Company is chartered by States-General of Holland.

1616 — Sir Walter Raleigh is released from Tower of London to seek gold in Guiana.

1784 — Holland cedes Negapatam, Madras, India, to Britain.

1800 — French Army under J.B. Kleber defeats Turks at Heliopolis, Turkey, and advances toward Cairo, Egypt.

1815 — Napoleon Bonaparte enters Paris and the "hundred days" begins.

1849 — Second Sikh war between Sikhs and Britain begins in India; Ludwig I, King of Bavaria, abdicates.

1850 — Another Anglo-Zulu war breaks out in South Africa.

1916 — Allies agree on partition of Turkey.

1942 — US Gen Douglas MacArthur declares "I shall return" to Philippines which he left for Australia during early days of World War II.

1952 — South Africa Supreme Court invalidates race legislation of D.F. Malan.

1956 — France recognises independence of Tunisia, with Bourguiba as first president.

1957 — Britain accepts Nato offer to mediate in Cyprus but Greece rejects.

1972 — Nineteen mountain climbers on Japan's Mount Fuji are killed in avalanches.

1987 — Italian Air Force general is shot dead by two youths on motorcycle, and attack is described as work of Red Brigades terrorist group.

1988 — Honduran warplanes bomb Nicaraguan positions in rugged border area where Sandinista troops were slow to withdraw to their country.

1989 — Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasser Arafat blames Israeli government for escalating violence in West Bank and Gaza Strip.

## Results favour quick reunification

## Boost to Kohl's prospects

EAST BERLIN, (Reuters): The conservative landslide in East Germany's first free elections on Sunday was a ringing triumph for German reunification, free market economics and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

The Alliance for Germany, a three-party coalition that Kohl cobbled together only in January, chalked up a projected 52 per cent of the vote on Sunday with slogans like "prosperity for all," "we are one people" and "freedom, not socialism."

Its biggest party, the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), took the lion's share with about 43 per cent despite colourless leaders and a 40-year history of meekly blessing the policies of the now-disgraced communist leadership.

## Key role

West Germany's Christian Democrat chancellor clearly played a key role in the result, addressing hundreds of thousands of East Germans at six jubilant rallies during the campaign.

At their peak, the turnout rivalled the biggest of the Leipzig Monday protests that toppled Erich Honecker's Stalinist old guard. In recent weeks, Kohl drew far more fans than any other politician — and more than he ever gets at home.

The victory was also an enormous boost to Kohl's prospects in West Germany's elections in December.

Deaf to criticism he was stampeding East Germans towards unity, Kohl unveiled sweeping plans to introduce the powerful West German mark as legal tender here and make unification a simple decision for East Germany.

The offer of a quick jump towards Western affluence was clearly more tempting than the message of caution that parties to the left, including the Social Democrats (SPD) and the communists, bammered home to worried voters.

## Unity

"We said from the beginning that we wanted German unity without any ifs, ands or buts," said Lothar de Maiziere, the low-key head of the Eastern CDU.

"People have decided most of all for a quick route to unity," a dejected Ibrahim Boehme, head of the badly bruised Social Democrats (SPD), said in his first reaction.

Oskar Lafontaine, the Western SPD's probable challenger to Kohl in December, charged the conservatives had won by making pie-in-the-sky promises. "The people have bet on the man who promises big money," he said.

Volker Ruhe, general secretary for Kohl's Western CDU, was quick to claim victory for Kohl. "This is first of all a victory for our friends here, but of course also for Helmut Kohl. He took a big risk, he committed himself completely," Ruhe said.

Kohl's prolonged reluctance to accept Poland's Oder-Neisse border as final, angered Warsaw, upset many of Bonn's European allies and drew a cautious rebuke from De Maiziere but clearly did the East German conservatives no harm.

Kohl, a former orchestra violin player with a professional grey beard, De Maiziere has flourished in the shadow of West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who totally dominated the East German CDU's campaign.

A slight man with a speech impediment, De Maiziere, 50, led the CDU to a surprise triumph in Sunday's first free election, overcoming its 40-year history as fellow travellers of the ousted Stalinist regime.

## Last

"I am sure this will be the last Volkskammer (East German Parliament) election," he told a television interviewer. He deflected queries about the premiership by saying: "I won't talk about personnel questions tonight."

Victory left him almost lost for words.

negotiations to score points for its Western brother in West Germany's December election.

After toying with the idea in February, Kohl recently ruled out pan-German elections this year when it looked like the Social Democrats might win

a majority.

But the chancellor is known for shifting course quickly and he could still opt for early pan-German elections if unification makes quick progress in the next few months.



Lothar de Maiziere flashing a victory sign. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Last premier' of GDR

EAST BERLIN, March 19, (Reuters): As jubilant supporters chanted a new slogan — "Lothar, Lothar" — at the CDU's election party, the likely future leader of East Germany could only say: "This is an unexpectedly good result which makes us very proud."

A former orchestra violin player with a professional grey beard, De Maiziere has flourished in the shadow of West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who totally dominated the East German CDU's campaign.

A slight man with a speech impediment, De Maiziere, 50, led the CDU into an alliance with two new conservative parties and won the vital backing of Kohl's Bonn Christian Democrats just seven weeks before the election.

His speeches failed to warm up the crowds before Kohl's booming voice brought them to their feet at campaign rallies.

He took a frequent part in round-table talks on democratic reforms with the leading opposition groups.

De Maiziere joined the CDU when he was 16 but, out of strong Christian convictions, avoided any ranking posts that would have disqualified him for his current job.

leadership last Nov 2, purging it of communist fellow travellers and committing it to democracy, a market economy and rapid unification with West Germany.

## Candidature

He served as a deputy prime minister in the caretaker coalition of reform communist prime minister Hans Modrow.

At the same time he steered the CDU into an alliance with two new conservative parties and won the vital backing of Kohl's Bonn Christian Democrats just seven weeks before the election.

He took a frequent part in round-table talks on democratic reforms with the leading opposition groups.

De Maiziere joined the CDU when he was 16 but, out of strong Christian convictions, avoided any ranking posts that would have disqualified him for his current job.

A central plank in Collor's government programme is cutting back Brazil's huge state sector, which accounts for about two-thirds of the economy.

## Theorem

Another recurrent theme in Collor's speeches is his desire to lift Brazil into the select group of rich, industrialised nations — not for the role that Brazil has traditionally sought of leader of the Third World.

Collor projected himself during the election campaign as a man outside the establishment. After his election victory he said time and again that he would do battle with Brazil's élite, whom he accused of harming the country.

But Collor himself is very much a man of Brazil's élite. He is rich and his family has been in politics for generations. His father, the late Sen. Arnaldo Alfonso de Mello, was bred in the tough world of politics and in 1963 shot dead a fellow senator on the floor of Congress.

Collor was born in Rio de Janeiro on Aug 12, 1949. He studied economics in Brasilia's University and journalism in the Federal University of Alagoas.

After working in the family's media business, he turned to politics and in 1979 he was nominated mayor of Maceio, capital of Alagoas state, by then military government in Brazil.

Elected governor of Alagoas in 1986, he led a campaign against highly-paid civil servants called "mahanrajas" and became a hero for many people struggling on starvation wages.

Collor has been married twice. His first marriage in 1975 was to socialite Lilieth Monteiro de Carvalho. The couple, who had two sons, separated in 1981. Three years later he married Rosine Malta, a student at business school.

## Quote me

"Democracy being implemented in Chile has been a good example for the entire world and has been an inspiration for the people of Nicaragua as they, too, have voted for democracy. In 1980, 20 per cent of the people of Latin America lived under democratic rule, today 95 per cent of the people of Latin America live under democratic rule." — US Vice-President Dan Quayle

"I started my first Test in '72/73 against Pakistan at the Basin Reserve. That was my first Test and the last one will be at the Basin Reserve against the Australians... that's a nice way to start and finish." — New Zealander Richard Hadlee on his last cricket match.

"This would appear to have offended a number of Australians who have relatives buried there, not to mention British and Dutch," spokesman Russ Propper on why Thai government dropped a scheme to develop River Kwai for tourism.

"We say thanks to the leaders of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Bulgaria for the lesson they have taught us. We feel now more socialist than ever, if that were possible. We feel reparation for those who have suffered under a colonial, deadly deal with the imperialism. We feel a stronger reparation for betrayal." — Fidel Castro



Malefane on the spot where he was shot. (Reuters wirephoto)

Treated

Malefane said nothing. He went under police guard to a hospital in the nearby whites-only town of Vereeniging. He had to wait three months to be treated by a doctor.

"I'm not a Kaffir (black) doctor," an Afrikaner white doctor explained to him, he said.

The people were singing freedom songs and throwing their pass books in the air, but were otherwise peaceful. Few expected violence and some women had brought children.

"We had no sticks, spears, or stones — nothing," said Malefane. Using his crutches, he accompanied a Reuters correspondent on a tour of the site of the massacre, a patch of waste ground little changed since

ARAB TIMES, TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 1989

## Letters to the editor

## Parents' plight

SIR: I write this letter as a distressed parent to bring to the notice of other parents and the Ministry of Education the dilemma that faces us and our young children.

The Indian School at Mangal has complained that due to an acute shortage of space it has become necessary to hold an afternoon shift for some sections of standards II, III & IV. My third child (son) aged 6 years and 9 months will start the third standard in April and we have been instructed that it is mandatory for him to attend the afternoon shift which will commence at 11.30 am and return in the evening at 6.30 pm. My first two girls aged 12 and 9, and youngest child aged 3 1/2 go together in the morning shift. Both my wife and I work and we do not have a servant.

How could we, who work in the morning shift, allow a child aged 6 years and 9 months remain in the house himself, until he ferries himself to the school at 11.30 am? Is it really necessary that children of this age be put on an afternoon shift particularly in the hot summer weather? Would a citizen of this country allow his children to be dealt with in this manner?

I have brought this problem to the notice of the authorities, who are adamant they cannot consider the issue. I have felt the need to voice these difficulties to a wider audience, hoping that I can find an avenue for a satisfactory solution.

Samuel Ganadas, Fabuland.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

## Collor: capitalised on social malaise

BRASILIA, (Reuters): Fernando Collor de Mello, inaugurated on Thursday as the youngest president in Brazilian history, rode at breakneck speed to the presidency on promises of banishing four-digit inflation and mass poverty.

Collor, 40, who is a black-belt karate expert with cool poise and elegant suits, began the 1989 election race as a complete outsider. He won broad support with his robust attacks on the highly unpopular government of president Jose Sarney, which he accused of corruption.

# BUSINESS & FINANCE

## India imposes higher taxes

(Continued from Page 1)

fifty per cent of the investible resources are deployed for agricultural and rural development, the central plan for 1990-91 will have a 49 per cent share for the rural sector in budgetary support up from the current year's level of 44 per cent.

Dandavate also proposed a scheme for providing debt relief to farmers for borrowers who have taken loans of up to Rs 10,000 from public sector and regional rural banks. A beginning will be made on an employment guarantee scheme with a scheme for drought prone areas and regions with chronic problems of rural unemployment, he said.

Among other things, Dandavate threw up a suggestion to give workers a share in the ownership of public sector undertakings, an idea on which he invited comments from experts and members of parliament.

For Non-resident Indians settled abroad, Dandavate said the government should continue to provide special facilities for them to invest their savings in India. The procedures will be simplified so that they can function with a sense of confidence and in line with declared national policy, he said.

The finance minister also announced some changes in the baggage rules relating to free allowance admissible to passengers arriving from foreign countries. The general free allowance is being increased from Rs 250 to Rs 2,000 per passenger.

There will be a uniform duty rate of 250 per cent for baggage in excess of this limit against the existing 175 per cent and 245 per cent. He has also proposed a uniform duty rate of 25 per cent on specified articles brought by passengers from abroad after a stay of more than one year, subject to certain conditions.

### Dollar eases

LONDON, March 19. (UPI): The dollar closed lower against the major European currencies today. Gold was up.

The dollar closed lower in Frankfurt to, at 1.6790, German marks against 1.6950 at Friday's close, and also was lower in Paris at 5.690, French francs against 5.7390, in Brussels to 35.00 Belgian francs against 35.24 and in Milan at 1.245.00 lire from 1.254.10.

The dollar closed unchanged in Zurich at 1.5065 Swiss francs.

In London, the pound closed more than a cent lower against the dollar, at \$1.6115 against \$1.6240 at Friday's close.

Dealers said the pound sank to its lowest level in three months against the German mark.

In Zurich, gold closed higher in London at \$402.75 per ounce against \$400.30 per ounce.

Silver closed unchanged in Zurich at \$5.10 per ounce, and also was unchanged in London, closing at \$5.13 per ounce.

### WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, March 19. (Reuters): Australia's share market closed firmer in the face of heavy falls in Tokyo's Nikkei index. The All Ordinaries ended up 15.2 at 1,599.7.

TOKYO: Tokyo shares dropped more than 1,300 points to close with the third biggest one-day point fall in history. The key 225-share Nikkei index plunged 1,353.20 to close at 31,263.24, a 4.15 per cent drop.

HONG KONG: Share prices eased

Non-interest system has its challenges

## Banking should integrate with culture, beliefs: banker

By M.C. Bose  
Business editor

A WELL-KNOWN Kuwait banker has said the role of financial intermediaries such as banks and financial institutions is very important in every economic strategy of any nation. Hence the need for this financial intermediation system to integrate well with the culture and beliefs of a society is extremely important especially in an Islamic nation because Islam demands of its followers total integration of the religion in all aspects of an individual's life. This has an important effect on the efficiency of an interest based intermediation system as it touches on two of the system's most important activities.

Adnan Al Bahar, general manager of the Kuwait Finance House was addressing a seminar on banking and finance at the Kuwait SAS Hotel yesterday. The seminar was jointly organised by MEED's local agent, MEFID Publishing Co. Ltd., and the SAS Hotel.

Talking about the challenge of Islamic banking, Al Bahar said societies naturally seek to grow, develop and prosper. To achieve this they compete with each other which in turn forces them to utilise their resources in the most efficient manner on a continuing basis.

He said Islamic societies must search for their own solutions, solutions that can satisfy their needs of active financial intermediation systems that operate in line with the demands of the Islamic sharia. Creating a non-interest based financial intermediation system has its challenges, such as the need to develop a supervision and monitoring system and the mechanics to operate monetary policy.

Al Bahar said: "However it is my belief that the cost and efforts that are needed by an Islamic society to adopt an alien financial system are far higher in the long run because of inefficiencies than the short-term costs of building a system that has been specially designed to fit with the culture of these societies. An economic system like that if engineered with due care and attention from its very beginning

has a good chance of breeding corporate entities and entrepreneurs that are innovative and creative."

"I think that the Japanese offer us a good example, not that the Japanese are especially good at inventing new products but that they have adapted Western management theories and practice in a way that allowed them to get the maximum efficiency and value out of their capabilities as a nation with the minimum waste of resources and it has also helped them to develop some distinctive competitive advantages in areas such as quality control and the capability to perfect production systems and cut production costs," he said.

Al Bahar said: "Now let's look into how successful has Islamic banking been in developing into an alternative financial intermediation system that blends in the best possible manner with the culture of Islamic societies, how resourceful has it been in developing its talents and capabilities to best support the development strategies of these societies and how well does it link these societies with the global capital and trade markets.

The earliest Islamic financial institutions were established between 1975 and 1977. This is at least twenty-five years behind the major introduction of banking in most Islamic countries. But this was necessary as the design of a system that was suitable to local values needed local expertise in the financial services industry which takes time to build. However in the meantime these nations urgently need financial intermediation solutions.

The earliest Islamic banks faced serious challenges ranging from general suspicions about their viability to a common mistrust of their intentions. It was a great challenge to build general public trust and to convince the financial community at home and abroad of the soundness of their business methods.

Since then Islamic banking has steadily grown to a level where we today have an Islamic bank in nearly every Islamic country and those that still do not have one are

in the process of establishing one. Many of these Islamic financial institutions today hold a major market share ranging between 10 per cent and 20 per cent in their respective countries in spite of the fact that in all cases they are by far the youngest of all financial institutions operating in these markets. This can be seen in countries such as Kuwait, Qatar, Egypt, Sudan, Bahrain, and many others.

This clearly shows that Islamic banks have been very successful in developing the financial intermediary model that best fits Islamic societies. This is demonstrated in the market share that the Islamic banks have built over the past few years in their respective markets, overcoming all the doubts in the market place and some not so successful initial experiences.

Moreover several Islamic financial institutions have been operating in the world's major financial centres in non-Islamic societies quite successfully primarily catering to the international financial requirements of their traditional home based clients and acting as a bridge between their domestic clients and the international financial markets.

He said Islamic banks at the beginning faced some difficulties in recycling these savings efficiently and this was due to two reasons: ■ Very fast deposits growth reflecting strong customer demand for Islamically acceptable financial products.

■ These institutions were venturing into new grounds, so while customer demand for banking services was relatively well developed in most of these markets, instruments of financing and investment that confirmed to the Islamic sharia were totally undeveloped.

But the problem did not last long. Acceptable and efficient investment vehicles were developed during the ensuing periods and today Islamic banks are utilising their funds quite efficiently and in the process have developed some very successful and innovative financing and

investment techniques. These developments vary from one country to another depending on the nature of each market.

In Kuwait "Kuwait Finance House" was established in 1978 to be the first financial institution to operate its business in accordance with the Islamic sharia and still remains the only such financial institution. Kuwait Finance House is the latest institution which came into being as financial services industry. In spite of being new, small and with limited experience, Kuwait Finance House was able in less than seven years, to carve a market share of approximately 20 per cent and became one of the major financial institutions in Kuwait.

Kuwait started operating in 1979, in a mature financial market with extensive service coverage, especially in the retail business, by large financial institutions with branch networks ranging between 20 and 40 branches each. Besides this, there were other difficulties confronting Kuwait Finance House: It was to operate in a little explored field with very limited expertise or know-how to draw from.

It was not considered a bank and hence faced many problems to secure acceptability by other financial institutions and to convince them to do business on its terms.

There was no clear institutional relationship between Kuwait Finance House and the Central Bank of Kuwait. Therefore Kuwait Finance House did not have a say in financial matters.

KFH has also introduced new, innovative and very useful products and services to this society. Banks try to avoid merchandise risks and feel comfortable with risks of debt. On the other hand merchants prefer to deal in merchandise risks and are not comfortable with the risk of debt.

In the retail markets, KFH identified that the major needs behind a personal loan were to finance the purchase of cars, furniture and building materials. Hence KFH provided these goods to customers on installments by means of special purchase arrangements with the local suppliers, and because of its ability to purchase in quantities it was able to get a special discount and therefore offer a better price to its customers than the banks.

Islamic banks have done a lot in linking their nations with the rest of the world especially the developing world, more specifically Arab and Islamic countries. This has been done through opening branches and subsidiaries in these countries which helps the flow of capital and exports between them, while conventional Arab financial institutions have concentrated their international operations mainly in the already developed Western countries.

Al Bahar said to further clarify this, there are seven Islamic financial institutions in the GCC countries. These institutions today operate approximately twenty five units in the form of foreign branches or subsidiaries (the biggest networks are those of Albarak and Dar Almal with KFH behind with a much smaller network). This makes an average of three and a half units per institution compared to Kuwaiti conventional banks' average of two units per bank.

Islamic banks are also working hard on encouraging trade flows among Islamic countries and have created funds that are devoted to financing exports between these

countries. They are also in the process of establishing a large trading company that will be based in Bahrain with the purpose of encouraging the development of trade among its member countries.

Another very important advantage is that financial institutions operating according to the codes of Islamic Shari'a are in a much better position to withstand competition from global and pan-regional financial institutions in their local markets. In fact there are distinct opportunities for them to carve out a place for themselves in the global financial markets if they manage themselves well due to their differentiated products and specialisation in areas where large global players do not compete. This possibility is of very important value to nations targeting an international role for their financial services industry.

He said that there is no doubt that Islamic banking is a phenomenon that goes much deeper than the issue of merely a banking system structured to operate in line with the Islamic Shari'a. It is a fundamental shift in the attitude of our society that concerns all who are involved with it one way or the other. It reflects the growing awareness of Islamic societies that they really can not continue to ignore their heritage and societal values.

On the contrary they must learn to live with it in peace and harmony and be proud of their independent character and social system.

Meanwhile, Bankers' Day was organised at the Kuwait SAS Hotel by holding an exhibition of banking products and books on banking.

The companies which displayed their products were top computer companies such as IBM, Wang (Kuwait Computer Services) and Comptech, Reuter, world's largest electronic publisher displayed their latest products. McGraw and Butterworth books on banking and finance were displayed. The Middle East Financial Directory (MEFD) 1990 which was released this month was also displayed.

## Kuwait cuts oil price for Japan

NICOSIA, March 19. (Agencies): Kuwait has agreed with its Japanese term customers for a 25 cents reduction in its crude price formula for the second quarter of this year, an oil industry newsletter reported today.

The second quarter price formula has been set at Oman/Dubai spot average minus 75 cents per barrel, as compared with Oman/Dubai spot average minus 50 cents per barrel for the first quarter, the Nicosia, Cyprus-based Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported.

Agreements on the second quarter price formula for Kuwait crude, which follows Saudi Arabia's 20 cent cut in Far East price formulas for April, under which Arabian medium is set at Oman/Dubai minus 65 cents per barrel, was initially reached in

talks between the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and Cosmo Oil last week, MEES said.

Kuwait Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa left Vienna today after attending a two-day meeting of the Opec production monitoring panel, concluded here on Saturday.

The eight-member ministerial panel, which comprises oil ministers of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Algeria, Iran, Nigeria, Indonesia and Venezuela had conducted intensive consultations on the topics that would be discussed by the Opec ministerial council in its ordinary session next May 25.

He said the upcoming session of the ministerial council would work out the new production ceiling, the new bench price and assign quotas for each member country for the second half of the year.

In Hong Kong in reaction to the slide in Tokyo stock prices, the Hang Seng index ended 15.07 points lower at 2,371.39.

BOMBAY: Nervous trading kept investors to the sidelines on day one of the 1990/91 budget, ending March 31, so that shares ended mixed. The Bombay Stock Exchange index fell 4.99 to 681.30.

PARIS: In line with the decline on major stock markets, French share prices ended near the day's lows. The market opened slightly lower on Tokyo's sharp drop and a new wave of late sales was triggered by Wall Street's initial slide. The CAC-40 index lost 21.86 points to 1,936.96.

**OBITUARY**  
Staff of Modern Pakistan School & College extend their heartfelt condolences  
To  
**Mr. & Mrs. Bashir Ahmed (Principal)**  
On the sad & sudden demise of their beloved son  
**AFTAB BASHIR**  
May Allah rest his soul in peace.

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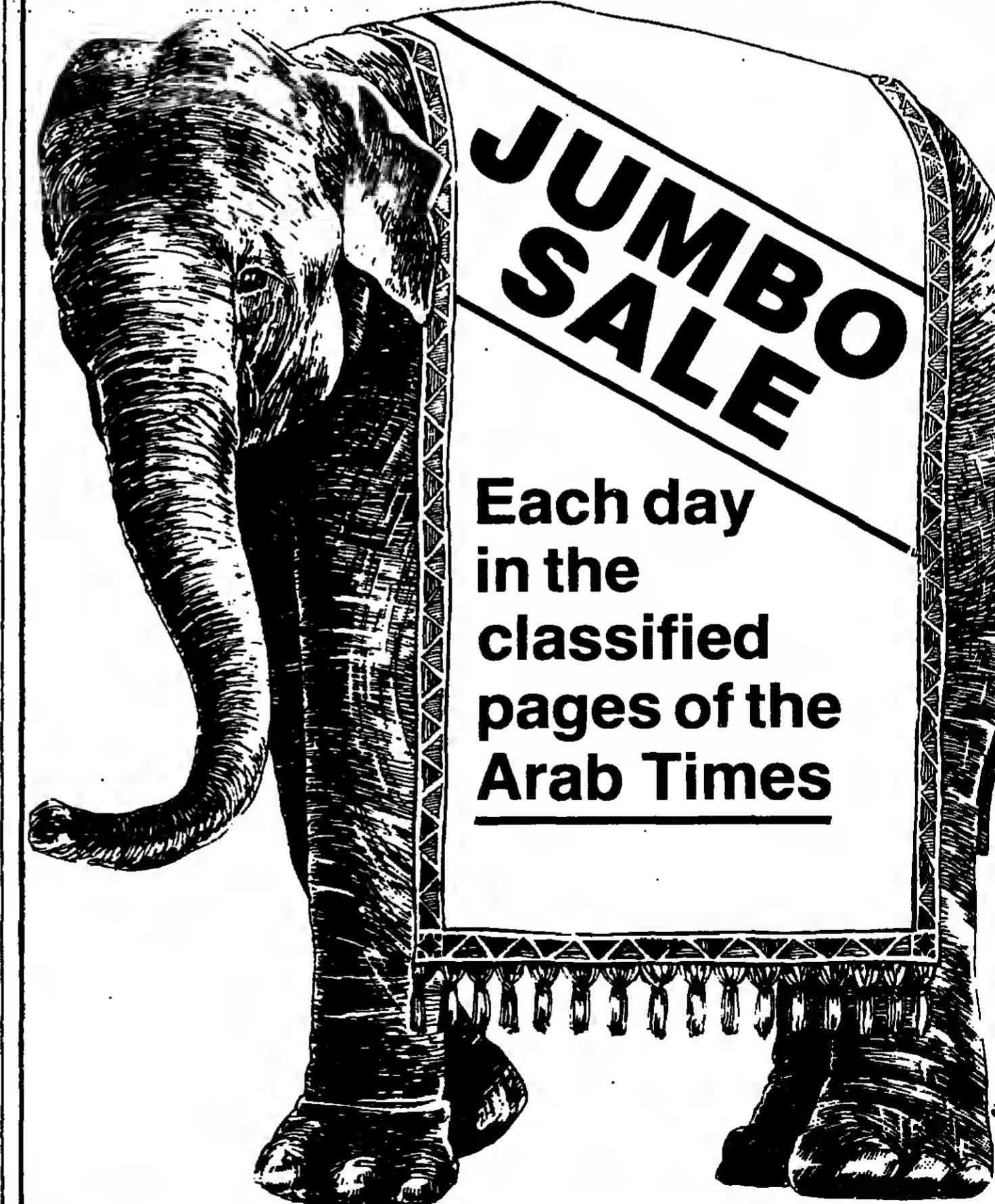
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### CHARLES CHURCH

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CHARLES CHURCH

# Beijing budget deficit mounts

BEIJING, March 19. (Reuters): China unveils its annual budget this week and economists say it will show a fifth consecutive deficit as the cost of bailing out state industry soars.

The economists expect the 1990 budget, to be presented at the annual meeting of parliament, to show a deficit similar to the eight to 10 billion yuan (\$1.7 billion to 2.1 billion) shortfall recorded last year.

"Payments to state enterprises ballooned last year because of the austerity policy," said a Western economist. "That trend should continue this year."

China slapped tight controls on spending and credit 19 months ago to check inflation and rein in economic growth. The policy was so effective that industry went into a tailspin and many firms were left with stockpiles of unsold goods.

The inefficient state sector, glorified by the hardline Marxists who seized control of the Communist Party last June, has been hit hard by the austerity policy, and Beijing has allocated vast amounts of money to bailing out state firms.

The 1989 budget called for 52 billion yuan (\$11 billion) in subsidies to industry, but economists estimate the cost was anywhere from one-quarter to half as much again.

Economists also expect continued heavy spending on price subsidies for consumers in 1990. Beijing proposed 40 billion yuan (\$8.5 billion) in such subsidies last year, but is widely believed to have spent more than that.

Spending on agriculture, education and science is expected to increase and the military, which last year crushed a campaign for democracy that challenged communist rule, is likely to demand more money this year.

China's leaders "want to keep things quiet," said an economist. "That means they will have to spend money."

The government is hoping to raise income from taxes this year and plans to expand its nationwide task force of auditors. Government income rose more than expected last year as new taxes were imposed, falling most heavily on private businessmen.

Another major source of income will be government bonds. Beijing issued about 10 billion yuan (\$2.1 billion) of bonds in 1989, and economists expect a similar total this year.

The government is expected to continue the widely presented practice of forcing people to buy bonds by deducting them from government employees' pay.

Many old bonds fall due this year. The official media says Beijing will set aside 10 billion yuan to redeem old bonds, but economists say potential redemptions could be much higher.

That would force Beijing to roll over old bonds into new ones or delay redemption payments, already a common practice.

"They could roll over the old ones," said an economist. "Or maybe just not pay."

BONN, March 19. (Reuters): West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, buoyed by the conservative election triumph in East Germany, appealed to East and West today to set aside ideological divisions and build an integrated European economy on the common ground they share.

Kohl, delivering a keynote speech at the opening of a 33-nation conference on East-West economic co-operation, told government officials and industrialists it was time to forget narrow-minded nationalism and create a new economic order.

"We are at a historical turning

point," he told the first session of the three-week long meeting, an offshoot of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE).

"A Europe is emerging in which old and new democracies are coming together ... as ideological and political antagonism is overcome, there is a growing awareness of common ground in Europe."

The conference, grouping all European nations except Albania plus the United States and Canada, has been thrust into the spotlight by the upheaval in East Europe and, more immediately, by Sunday's first

free elections in East Germany.

The surprisingly clear-cut victory for the East German conservatives was hailed on Sunday by Kohl as a clear choice for the free market and rejection of four decades of Stalinist central planning — an economic model East European nations from Poland to the Soviet Union are also now jettisoning.

"Nowhere did the scars of World War Two remain longer than in divided Germany," Kohl said today. "But nowhere is the hope for a peaceful, united Europe stronger than here in Germany."

to overcome both divisions peacefully."

The CSCE conference, which on Wednesday will split into four working groups investigating economic questions from joint ventures to currency convertibility, is the biggest gathering of East and West since the Berlin Wall crumbled last November.

As the two Germanys move swiftly to monetary union — East Germany's economics minister-designate Elmar Pieroth spoke today of a deal by June 30 — the practical problems of economic integration have also come to the fore.

West German Economics Minister Helmut Haussmann, also addressing the CSCE conference, said the economic integration of the two Germanys should foster closer business contacts throughout East and West Europe.

"We have a great chance to map out a future built on free markets," he said. "The future belongs to a European economic zone, binding together and governed by rules of the market."

Kohl dismissed fears that German unity would slow the European Economic Commu-

nit's plans for a single market after 1992 and its own monetary union aimed at forging a single currency.

The CSCE process, begun in Helsinki in 1975, is better known for its work on security and human rights. Some 1,500 delegates used to negotiate between Warsaw Pact and NATO blocks have found a new atmosphere in Bonn.

"Discussion has become easier," Lorenz Schomann, the senior official in West Germany's delegation, told Reuters. "All the parties are now looking in the same direction."

## Minister flays rial exchange rate

# Iran seeks Western aid to revitalise industrial base

NICOSIA, Cyprus, March 19. (AP): Iran's minister of heavy industries says that the artificially low rate of exchange for the rial against the US dollar is the main problem facing Iranian industries, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported today.

Minister Nejat Huseinian in a weekend speech to the Islamic Society of Engineers said, "the difference between the official and black market price of foreign currency is the root cause of dependence, problems in production and ill distribution of goods."

Huseinian said the rate gap was at the heart of the corruption in the country's distribution system.

He added, "as long as we maintain this ratio, we are engaged in a counter-productive task."

The official rate of exchange for the rial is 70 to one dollar, while the black market rate has gone as high as 1,350 per dollar.

The government has attempted to short-circuit the black market by introducing a rate close to 1,000 rials per dollar for some trade transactions.

He said the government, which controls most of the foreign exchange, often makes purchases from abroad rather than going through the expensive process of converting rials to dollars at the official rate to buy on the Iranian market.

The country is also suffering from an ebonic shortage of foreign exchange, Huseinian said.

The only way to overcome that shortage is to boost production the minister said.

As an example of the ills facing major Iranian industries, he cited the production of cars by the Saipa car manufacturing company under licence from Renault.

The minister said the cars were sold for 710,000 rials, representing a loss of 700,000 rials in production costs alone. The cars

delivered were immediately resold on the black market for 7 million rials, meaning the government was losing 100 per cent of its potential revenue, Huseinian said.

If the government wishes to pay subsidies, the minister said, "it should avoid paying it to this sort of production and instead pay it in the form of cash aid to the public."

Turning to the push for reconstruction in the wake of the 1980-88 war with Iraq, Huseinian said the Islamic republic needed to increase investment in scientific fields and access to technological innovations.

The government is under increasing pressure to do something about the economy and the widespread corruption in the bureaucracy.

Large-scale protests against price hikes, inflation and shortages of consumer goods have been reported recently in Tehran and other cities. Shortages in the state-controlled economy have created a ranging black market in almost all consumer goods.

## Mulroney arrives in Barbados

### Summit to discuss trade pacts



Brian Mulroney

the need to revise it.

Barbados Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford will preside over today's meeting. Mulroney arrived in Barbados from Mexico, where he held three days of meetings with President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and Mexican businessmen. Mulroney told reporters he would not be surprised if a North American common market is established in the next decade. He said Salinas is modernising the Mexican economy and developing new trading patterns.

"The policies of President Salinas lead me to conclude he is more and more interested in greater access to the North American market," Mulroney said.

"Whether this emerges into a formal association with North America over the next decade I don't know, but I wouldn't be scandalised at the prospect," Mulroney added.

Mulroney stressed the importance of throwing open trade barriers.

The ministry source said the trade protocol signed in February calls for Libya to supply Sudan with \$50 million worth of badly needed petroleum products, cement and agricultural supplies. In return, Sudan is to provide Libya livestock, fruits and other items worth another \$50 million.

## Sudan, Libya to activate barter deal

KHARTOUM, Sudan, March 19. (AP): A Sudanese government minister flew to Libya today for talks on activating a \$100-million barter agreement between the two countries, part of an effort aimed at unification.

A source at the Ministry of Commerce, Co-operation and Supply said Minister Farouq Al Bushra's trip and others by officials of the two countries are to follow up an integration declaration signed this month.

The document's goal is to unite Sudan and Libya in four years.

The declaration provides for close co-operation in political, economic, security, social and cultural affairs.

Although signed by Moammar Khaddafi and Lt. Gen. Omar Hassan El Bashir, head of Sudan's ruling junta, the agreement has yet to be ratified.

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Some students in a school, which reopened in southern Sudan, sit in the cool shade of the tree in the village of Fariak.

## Education

## Tree shade schools reopen in Sudan

By Robert M. Press

BOR, Sudan: Sometimes eagerness to learn can overcome even the violence of war. That's what's happening in rebel areas of southern Sudan, a country now in its seventh year of a wrenching conflict that has seen perhaps a quarter of a million civilian deaths and several million people fleeing their homes.

Many people still live in the south, and life goes on, somehow. Now, very slowly, like the tender notes of a calming song that brings a sense of hope amidst chaos, young children are getting a new chance — for many, the first chance — to get some education. Not much, but some.

Here's a typical scene, deep in rebel territory.

Forty-five young boys and a few girls sit alert in the dirt under a tree in the village of Fariak, just south of this army town.

"This is my name; my name is Afindi. This is my name; my name is Afindi." Later the children count aloud in English through 50. Over and over the students chant in unison the lessons their teacher, Atiny Makdi Yoso, leads them through. The total supplies of this tree-shade school? A single book, which the teacher uses; a blackboard propped up on three sticks; chalk and eraser; and, for the children, pencil stubs and notebooks cut in half to stretch the meager supply.

Those tiny notebooks and pencils have become prized possessions of eager students here and in a growing number of village primary schools under trees or in war-damaged classrooms across much of rebel-held Sudan.

A young boy raced up to a United Nations relief vehicle recently outside Bor and begged — not for food, but for a pencil for school. Most boys in schools are naked; their families have no money for clothes. Girls come modestly clad.

As quickly as schools open, they are flooded with students hungry to learn, despite extreme poverty, uncertainty about food, and occasional aerial bombings.

"When there is bombardment, the children are dispersed," says James Mayan Benjamin, who co-ordinates education in the Bor area. "The next day they come and we teach them again. All the teachers and the students are afraid of the bombings," he says.



A student in an open air classroom clutching precious commodities: pencil and half pad of paper.

Afraid, yes. But still the teachers keep teaching, and the students keep returning to class.

The irrepressible spirit of the children was evident even at the site of a bombing that seriously injured an 11-year-old girl who had just returned from school. As we were walking away from the bombed area, a young boy named Garang Alier started

singing as he followed us down the path. It is that kind of unquenchable spirit that is filling classes — as soon as they open in the rebel areas — with students whose eyes are not drowsy, but straining to see every word their teacher writes on the board.

"They are eager to learn," says Magok Kur Magok, a high-school graduate and accountant-turned-teacher in the village of Mathim, near Bor. Within seven days of his opening the school, some 500 students had enrolled. His own dedication is obvious, too: "When I saw that children in the area were eager to get education, I had to help. The education I got, I'm going to give."

At one school, with grass-thatch walls and roof, and dirt floor, several scores of students were jammed together inside. They clapped when a visitor arrived, and then they started singing. A southern Sudanese song said the song was in praise of the rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA). But he turned away quickly when I asked him to explain that on a tape recording.

A teacher at another location said schools in his area had been started by order of the local chairman of the SPLA. Yet another teacher, asked if he worked for the SPLA or the Sudanese Relief and Rehabilitation Association (SRRA), the rebel area relief agency, said: "I don't know the difference."

**Share**  
As closely as the schools may be linked to the SPLA, they are meeting an obvious and urgent need. The SRRA estimates that several thousand students are in schools that have started within the past year all over the vast rebel-held territory. The SPLA, which says it is fighting, in part, for a fairer share of power and of federal development money for the South in a united Sudan, has made education a priority. International officials agree that it should be.

"We have to avoid a lost generation," says Detlef Palm, an official with Unicef in Nairobi, Kenya. Much of the United Nations' "operation lifeline" aid for southern Sudan comes from Unicef.

Most of the credit for starting the schools goes to the Sudanese in the rebel areas. The SRRA is seeking outside help, however, and badly needs it. But so far, the SRRA has not presented a detailed plan on

how to use the assistance, says Mr. Palm. Until such a plan is made, international funding, hard enough to get, will be even more difficult.

Unicef, which has already provided some materials, has budgeted \$400,000 for educational assistance to southern Sudan this year, says Palm. But so far only \$60,000 has been raised, and half of that is for two vehicles for educational personnel to try to get around the vast, unpaved region. Street Kids International, based in Canada, and Norwegian Church Aid, with an office in Nairobi, have both pledged funds for education in the rebel areas.

Teachers are not paid. The SRRA has a little money of its own. Teachers hope they eventually will be paid in food, probably from international sources, "to survive," as one teacher put it, in a region where war has nearly destroyed the economy. Teaching takes them away from their subsistence family farms. The UN World Food Programme is considering funding food payments to teachers and for school meals, says a UN official in Nairobi.

## Method

Teacher training is a priority need, according to Ajit Akuei, the SRRA educational co-ordinator. Many trained teachers fled to Ethiopia or other parts of Sudan and are not likely to return until peace is restored, says one teacher. Many of those now teaching are doing so for the first time. With little training themselves and no books for the students, repetition for memorization is the basic technique many of these teachers use. And the method isn't working very well.

But Garang, one of the young students in the tree-shade school in Fariak, is soaking up what's available. Through a translator, he explains that when he gets big, "I want to continue my education. I want to know what the world is going on, to know the world, or to be in politics."

Some students in his class live far away. They sleep in the village, which is near a swamp, along the Nile. Mosquitoes are so thick they have driven a number of students to return home for good, says Garang.

Then he made this request to the visiting reporter: "We need mosquito nets and clothes. They are important to us. They are equivalent to exercise books. I don't ask for more."

The Christian Science Monitor.

FAMILY DOCTOR  
By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

## ANAESTHETIC DISCOVERED IN 19TH CENTURY

QUESTION: Why on earth would anyone inhale nitrous oxide for fun? I'm a metallurgist, not a biochemist, but it seems to me that any effect would be shortchange you on oxygen. For that matter, why would an anesthesiologist use it? And I'm missing some important information here?

ANSWER: You are right. I'm quite a bit of a pharmacologist and some important medical history, as well. And (forgive the pun) the laugh may be on you, for nitrous oxide is also known as "laughing gas."

Back in 1844, Dr. Horace Wells, a dentist from Hartford, Conn., was credited with discovering this gas as an anesthetic. He was watching a theatrical demonstration of the effects of nitrous oxide. While generally the effects were those of euphoria and intoxication, frequently accompanied by hysterical laughter (thus the name), on this occasion, the subject became angered and jumped from the stage, cutting his leg deeply.

Wells noted that though the wound should have been painful, there appeared to be no suffering on the part of the victim, and speculated on the medicinal uses of the gas. Although difficult to manage, nitrous oxide was found useful as an anesthetic.

However, some misguided individuals seeking a cheap high still use this gas without due respect to the dangers of this treacherous gas. It may cause nausea and vomiting, shivering and trembling, hallucinations and confusion. In animal studies it has been shown to provoke fetal death, growth retardation and skeletal abnormalities. It's used in low doses for obstetrical analgesia (pain suppression where loss of consciousness is not needed). Since it's a weak agent, it's most frequently used with other more potent anesthetics to reduce the dosage needed to maintain adequate effect.

You're right about the need for oxygen though. Nitrous oxide is administered with no less than 30 per cent oxygen to maintain sufficient levels to the bloodstream, and thus the heart and brain.

QUESTION: My father's physician is suggesting a bone scan to try and determine the cause of an ongoing pain. I would like to reassure Dad about the procedure, but I don't understand anything about it. Will you help?

ANSWER: Bone scans are used to evaluate bones and to detect areas containing abnormalities that may have been caused by infections, fractures, tumors or other disorders. They are safe and sometimes provide more detailed information than X-rays do.

When a bone scan is performed, a liquid containing a little radionuclide (radioactive material) is injected into a vein. In about two hours, when the bones have had time to absorb the material, the scan begins. The radionuclide emits signals that a scanner can detect, and these signals are converted into images of the bones. Signals from problem areas differ from normal ones, so that they reveal areas where something may be amiss. The pattern of the image offers clues to the physician that can help form an opinion or make a diagnosis.

Scans take about 45 minutes. During the procedure, the patient lies still on a table as the scanner moves around his body. For some types of equipment where the scanner remains stationary, the table will be moved. Immediately following the scan, your dad will be able to return home.

Radionuclide is excreted from the patient's body within a day or two. When bone abnormalities are discovered by scanning, other tests may be necessary to clarify a difficult situation, and assure an accurate diagnosis.

## 'Corpse Lily' — under seige by bulldozers

KINABALU PARK, Malaysia (Reuters): Cursed with a smell like rotten meat and labelled the stinking corpse lily, the world's largest flower is under threat from man.

Development and logging in the jungles of Southeast Asia are endangering the survival of the foul-scented blooms, which can measure more than a yard (metre) across.

Nature could not have devised a more precarious existence for the parasitic flower — botanical name *Rafflesia Arnoldii* — which attaches itself to vines, flowers rarely and needs rodents to propagate seeds from its fruit.

Its delicate life cycle is under siege by the bulldozers that are razing its habitat and the locals who collect its fruit for use in medicine or as an aphrodisiac, scientists say.

They are one of the 14 species of the flower, found only in Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand, has become extinct since the 1960s, and chances of survival for the rest are fading.

The plant has a flower with five leathery spotted petals ranging from dull yellow to red, said Jamil Nais, ecology director of Kinabalu Park in Sabah State on the Island of Borneo.

## Blooms

Seeds of the *Rafflesia* germinate for six to eight months into a thumb-sized bud on the *lanceolarium* vine and take another nine to 18 months to mature, by which time the plant looks like a brown cabbage.

The *Rafflesia* then blooms for four to seven days. So unlikely is its reproduction process that a male and female plant must bloom side by side for the same period, said Jamil.

The offensive smell attracts carrion flies which help to pollinate the flowers.

"The chances of a male and female *Rafflesia* blooming side by side and (being) pollinated successfully are very slim," said Jamil.

The largest recorded flower, found in Indonesia, measured 42 inches (107 cm). Malaysian officials

found Sabah's largest specimen, measuring 36 inches (91 cm), last year.

The cycle of life, which lasts up to two years, ends when the flowers withers after less than a week's bloom leaving a fruit which looks like half a rugby ball and contains thousands of seeds.

As squirrels and rodents feed on the fruit, the tiny seeds stick to their whiskers and paws and are in the turn propagated as the animals scurry along the vine.

One species in peninsular Malaysia, the *scandens*, is nearly extinct because locals collect the fruit to use in an aphrodisiac or a medicine to help women recover from childbirth.

Locals in Borneo do not eat the fruit but the *Rafflesia* is threatened by loggers who have cut away vast tracts of natural forest in timber-rich Sabah, Jamil said.

"The greatest threat is logging which destroys the vine on which the plant survives," he said. "The *Rafflesia* is rare, vulnerable and threatened. The entire species might be wiped out if nothing is done."

He said he once found a colony of *Rafflesia* buds in a timber concession area and asked the logging company to leave the vines untouched. "When we came back after a few months everything was gone — timber, vine and *Rafflesia*."

## Specimen

Jamil said he asked the government to give allowances to villagers who have *Rafflesia* on their land and to pay them for alerting and guiding rangers to each bloom.

Jamil said he hoped to identify areas where the *Rafflesia* thrive and charge tourists to view them to pay for the conservation of the flower.

Meanwhile, rangers in Kinabalu Park are camouflaging each bloom. But they showed a magnificent 28-inch (71-cm) specimen, striking and surrounded by carrion flies, to a recent visitor.

## Splash of colour and creativity

## Fall-winter collection

PARIS, (AP): Sparkling with colour, luxury and youthful abandon, Christian Lacroix's show of ready-to-wear and "Luxe" lines Sunday was a winner for women who want to have fun looking feminine.

The lean pants, minis, tunics, fitted or smocky tops of the ready-to-wear line melded right into the more expensive "luxe."

"I love it," said John Fairchild, publisher of Women's Wear daily and W. "It's highly decorative. He gives the clothes personality more than any other designer, and it's never boring."

Looking pale but happy, Lacroix took a bow after the show in his shop on a summer day that radiated the same sunny spirit shown by the young man from the south of France. Still recovering from two back operations, Lacroix was walking stiffly.

The eye-catching clothes went from reversible shocking pink and orange shortie trapeze tops over pink tights and high orange suede over-the-knee boots to light burgundy-yellow-black bicycle tights with pullovers or v-necked mini-tunics in chartreuse and rust with ribbed tights.

Lacroix also worked with a wealth of fabrics in happy combinations. Typical was an outfit featuring a jewel-buttoned burgundy and yellow jacket in a patchwork of little hearts and geometrics over a flowered tapestry miniskirt — the head and shoulders wrapped in a lame fringed stole embroidered with big flowers and stars.

There were endless ideas, like the chartreuse pique fitted jacket printed with raspberry pink triangles over tapered tartan pants with wide cuffs.

## Slopes

Another winner for colour was Italian Enrico Coveri. He drew inspiration from the ski slopes, showing brightly-flowered long pullovers paired with stretch tights, plus some hot numbers based on ski suits appliqued with starfish designs.

His plaid suits with long tweed jackets, matching brimmed hats and shortie sarong-split skirts were fetching for daytime. And the gym-suit body stocking worn with lame boots and a cape of multicoloured oversized mirror sequins appeared perfect for the apres-ski scene.

Meanwhile, Italian Romeo Gigli's Saturday night show drew praise for artistry.

Gigli went on his usual exotic trip of fabrics, producing heart-shaped coats in luxurious silks and velvets of brown and bordeaux with their narrow tops ballooning out at the hemlines, the heads topped by little lace sequined wimple hoods.

## Lush look

Rich quilted velvet, guipure lace and mirror sequins all add to the lush look of rich peacockings gone wild. But one wonders what Juliet would think of Romeo's peacock to evening: a high-waisted bubble of cocoon-wrapped shimmering silk aubergine guaze with lattice-lace sleeves.

No need to buy tickets to the Moulin Rouge or the Lido — designer Thierry Mugler's fall-winter ready-to-wear show for store buyers and press looked like a Paris nightclub. Mini dresses bared the leg right to its end and necklines were slashed to the waist. In back the dresses flared into saucy peplums under supertight waists.

Add sequins, glitter, velvet, rhinestones mix well with songs and dances by aging Paris nightclub stars from the 1950's — Amanda Lear and Alice and Ellen Kessler.

Throw in skin-hugging tights and low-cut flared jackets in tough and shiny black vinyl. Plus a transparent white stretch skin-hugging jump suit with rhinestones glued over the private parts. And you cooked up a girlie show from a Champs Elysees nightclub that staggered Mugler's audience.

Although the basic style of Givenchy changes little, his well-brought-up outfit sang with beauty and wearability after four days of far-out, sometimes vulgar styles in the 10-day fashion festival.

To the beat of American jazz of the '50s instead of the usual pounding rock, Givenchy paraded sighs over knitwear — loose jackets or coats over skirts or belted dresses, often with knitted-in tiger designs. Some outfit mixed colours such as plum and mustard.

A black leather suit with a fitted collarless jacket bore the same rippling tiger motif in gold to match the gold jersey blouse.

Karl Lagerfeld rolled out supershort, superyoung skirts, jackets and coats that are magnificent on supershort, superyoung women. Other observers appeared disappointed.

He liked wide lapels, fitted jackets, capes, cigarette trousers, bows of brass buttons, stoles and scarves, tank-top dresses and embroidered lapels and pockets on short evening suits.



A Claude Montana model wears a white button-down vest over a matching shirt and red cap.



Looking more android than mannequin, a model for Thierry Mugler presented a two-piece dress and hat outlined in fluorescent colours and displayed under a black light giving this skeletal effect.

## Miniature hoods blossom

PARIS, (UPI): The hood revolution that has seized the Paris fall-winter ready-to-wear fashion shows burst out in a new form — miniature hoods in the Comme des Garcons parade for press and buyers.

Japanese designer Rei Kawakubo, in her ninth year of showing her unique styles in Paris, made grape

# Alchemy rediscovered

**Forgotten for 80 years**

AS chemist William White shut up shop in 1909 to signal the end of another busy day he had no idea the pharmacy door would remain unopened for nearly 2 centuries.

Now, after more than 78 undisturbed years, the drug store has become a unique time capsule of Victorian alchemy.

And walking into the shop now you will find all the strange remedies, poultices and cure-alls that he regularly dispensed to his customers.

Earlier this year a team of valuers carried out an inspection of the tiny shop in south Petherton, Somerset and uncovered the place completely untouched by progress.

The back room "medical museum" had been boarded up after William White's death in 1909.

Mortar and pestles line the shelves, crammed with dusty stone specimen jars. Half an inch of dust covers the quartz carboys and domes.

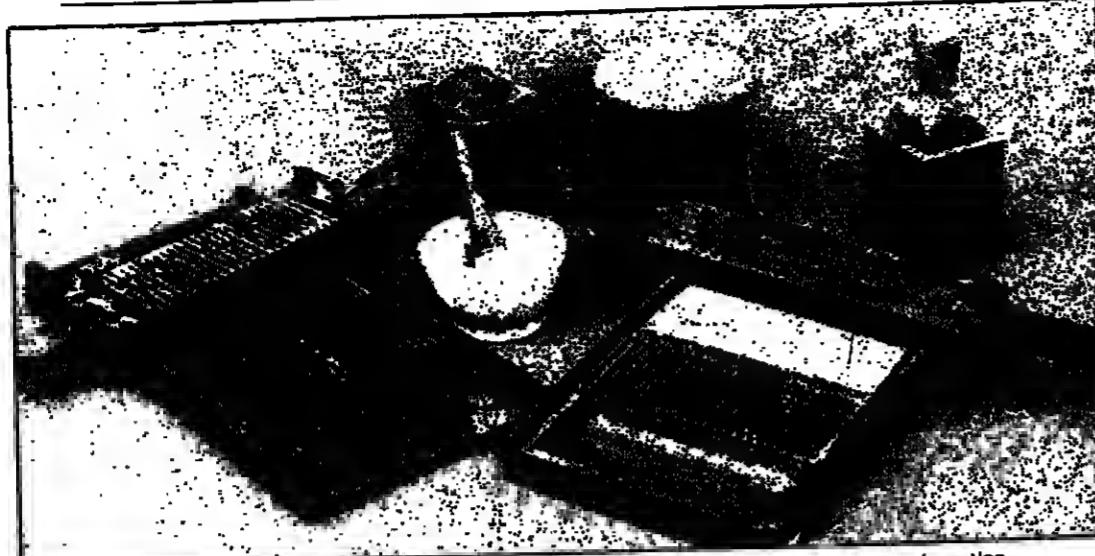
Samples of various tree barks, roots, gum, dried leaves, poppies and sinister concoctions lie behind obscure gold leaf labels.

There's even arsenic and cyanide, prescribed in small doses in Victorian times for curing headaches, common colds and stomach ailments.

For high blood pressure, varicose veins and bruises there are leeches. And for rheumatism, a solution of opium, known as laudanum.

The back room of the shop was sealed up when White died, leaving the business to his son Charles, who was unqualified to dispense drugs and sold only patent medicines, wines and spirits.

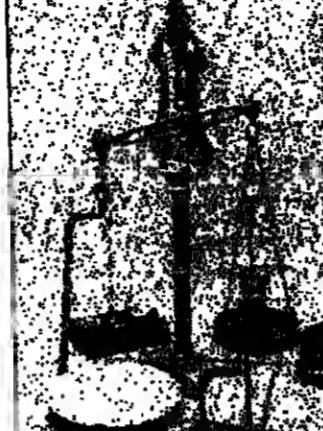
When he died in 1952, the business was kept going by his daughters, Margaret and Evelyn



Antique: the old methods of medicine — William White's pill rollers, mortars and pestles.



Potent: an array of oils and lotions from William White's pharmacy discovered after 78 years.



Victoria: original Avery scales, found behind a boarded up door in a Westcountry chemist's shop.

mon with modern day medicine, White's extracts of Foxglove — known as "digitalis" — are used extensively today in the treatment of heart disease.

According to top chemist Leslie Matthews, the hoard is "priceless". At the auction, however, the sale of the shop itself proved slightly less expensive. It was sold for a bargain £91,000.

He says: "White would have been a lack of all trades. Not only would he have run the apothecary, he would have sold a host of household goods and agricultural implements. He may even have pulled teeth.

White. But the two elderly spinners closed the shop when the decimal system came in 1969, refusing to handle the "new money".

They left the last day's takings of "old money" in the till and

## The New Indian School, Jabriya REQUIRES

### Teacher in Hindi

Should be a trained graduate with experience of teaching Hindi. Applications on prescribed forms (obtainable from school office) must reach the school by 28th March, 1990. Only applicants having transferable visas should apply.

ADMINISTRATOR

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**ARAB TIMES**  
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## JUNIOR TIMES

### Happy birthday



Ankita turned 6 on March 18.



Paul Pradeep turns 5 on March 21.



Sahani Jayaratne turns 9 on March 16.



Joe Colaco turns 9 on March 21.



Nikhil Mannan turned 3 on March 18.



Zainab Nisreen turned 5 on March 18.



Shawn Pinto turns 8 today, March 20.



Lubna Nazeer turned 6 on March 17.

### Spring

Spring comes in March, making a rainbow arch. In this season flowers bloom, bringing joy over gloom. Making the sun shine, on other things and the trees of pine.

This season brings joy, over the children who are coy.

Hello Spring, hello Spring, sweet are the things you did bring.

### Winter

Softly, softly falls the snow from the heavy sky, like white feathers from a dove come the snowflakes from above on the ground to lie. Softly, softly falls the snow covering hill and dale, till the world is strangely fair, white trees gleaming everywhere like a fairytale!

By Nida Khan,  
International School  
of Pakistan,  
Class Sr. 1A.



### Amazing facts

Pope Benedict IX became Pope when he was twelve, but was later expelled for vice and moral corruption.

A Park Ranger of Virginia, USA, has been struck by lightning seven times.

A ram adds an additional spiral section to its horns every year.

The southernmost manned lighthouse in the world is Cape Pembroke Lighthouse in the Falkland Islands.

The official cause of death of George IV was listed as rupture of the stomach blood vessels, alcoholic cirrhosis, gout, nephritis and dropsy.

The bayonet is named after the French town Bayonne.

### Just for laughs!

My uncle's elephant went mad the other day. It needed a trunkquilliser.

This lion went into this shop and said, "I want a fur coat."

They said, "Why on earth do you want a fur coat?"

He said, "I'd look a fool in a plastic mac."

There were these two lions walking along Brighton pier.

One said to the other, "It's quiet for a bank holiday."

My mum went to the doctor. She said, "Doctor I feel like a piece of toast."

The doctor said, "You need buttering up."

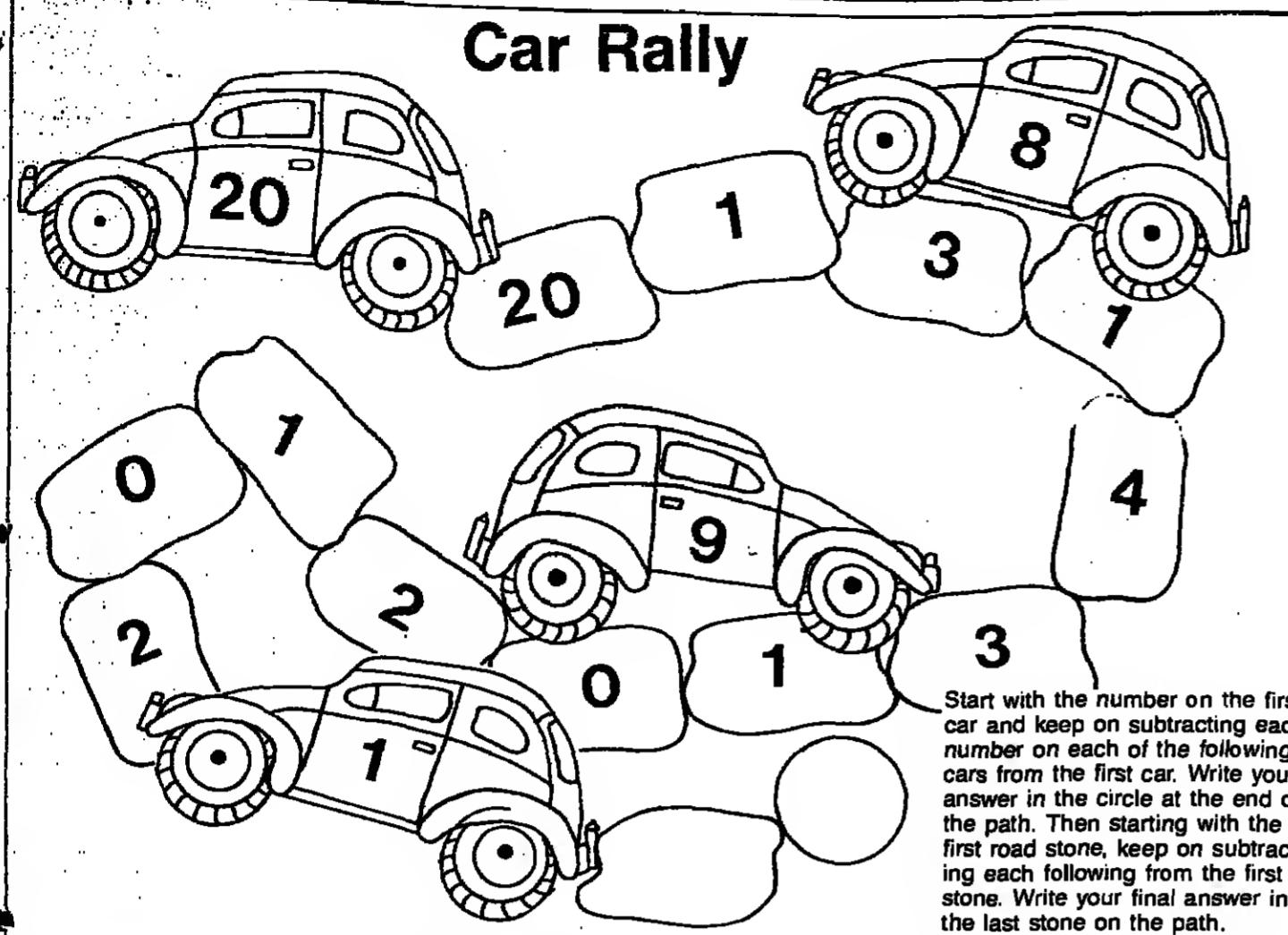
My uncle said, "I'm building a new house but it's very draughty."

I said, "What are you building it with?"

He said, "Breeze blocks."



## Car Rally



Start with the number on the first car and keep on subtracting each number on each of the following cars from the first car. Write your answer in the circle at the end of the path. Then starting with the first road stone, keep on subtracting each following from the first stone. Write your final answer in the last stone on the path.

## Dear Junior Readers,

Learning is the only serious responsibility you carry until you are eighteen.

You should, thereby, try to engulf as much knowledge as you possibly can. This will pay off in the future. Reading and learning are the keys to success.

Knowledge allows you to become both more creative and analytic. It enables logical discussions and serial thinking.

While studying you should aim at obtaining good marks but the understanding of the subject under study is more important.

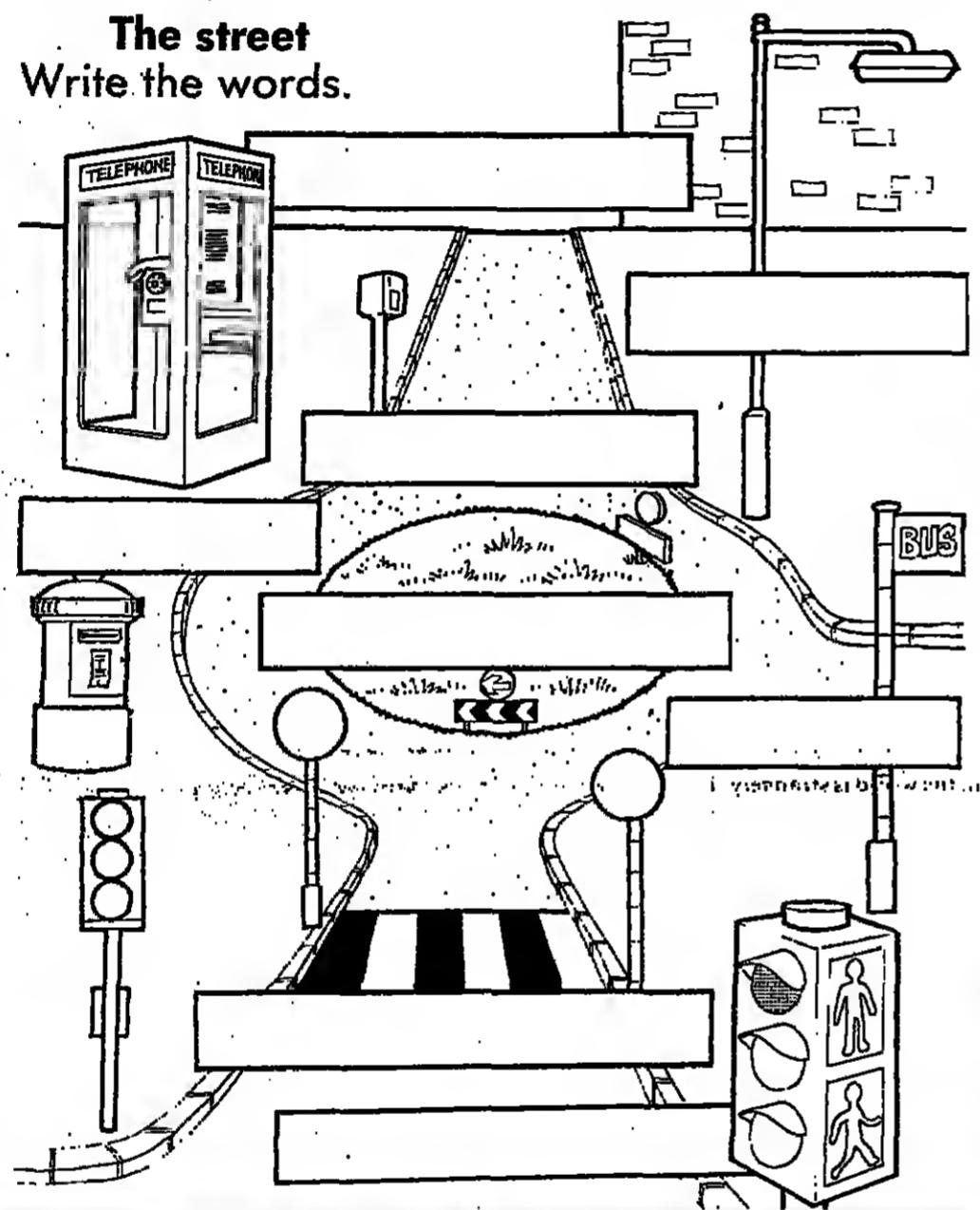
Some people have the ability to learn work very quickly, without necessarily understanding, and they score very good marks in their exams. However, they forget all that they learned in a few days. This is useless.

Knowledge obtained from education should never be forgotten.

Just imagine, a lot of children around the world are learning the same information. It would be extremely frustrating if you are the only person who does not know what diffusion is, or how plants and trees obtain their food, or the reign of Napoleon; don't you agree?

So next time you start to read make sure your main objective is to learn and understand more about the world we live in—try not to take it as a chore you are forced to do.

Manal

The street  
Write the words.

## Join the science gang

## Cooking

This recipe makes:  
2 big gingerbread people.

## You will need

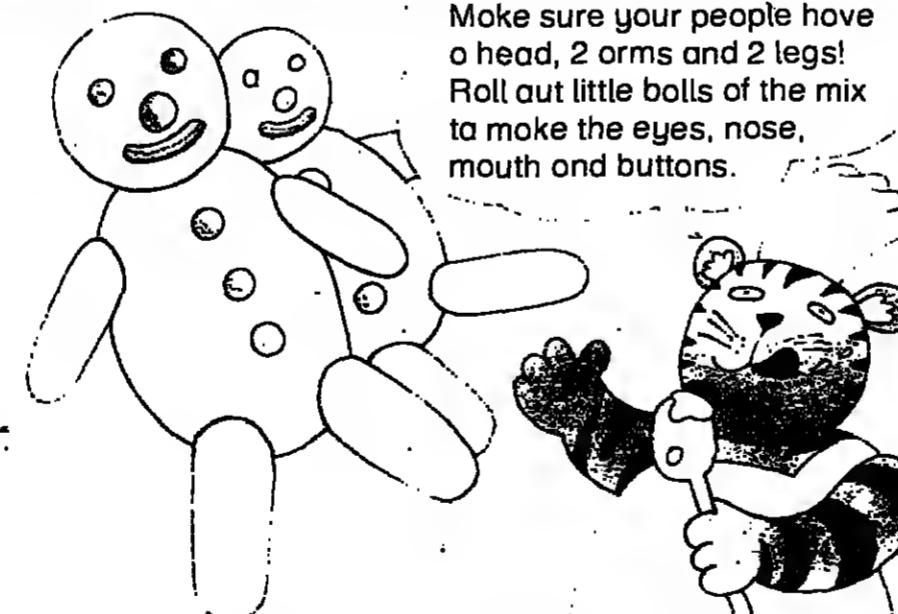
8 heaped dessertspoons of plain flour  
4 heaped dessertspoons of soft brown sugar  
120g or 4oz of soft margarine  
1 heaped teaspoon of baking powder  
1 heaped teaspoon of ground ginger  
a little cold water

Note to Parents  
The oven should be pre-heated to 350 F.  
180 C. - Use Mark 4. Remember  
children should always be closely  
supervised when cooking.

## What to do

- 1 Wash your hands and put on an apron.
- 2 Grease a baking tray.
- 3 Count the spoonfuls of flour, sugar, baking powder and ginger into a large bowl and mix together.
- 4 Add the margarine and rub into the mixture until it looks like breadcrumbs.
- 5 Add a little water (2 or 3 dessertspoons should be enough) and use your hands to press the mixture into a ball.

## 6 Divide the mixture and make 2 people like this.



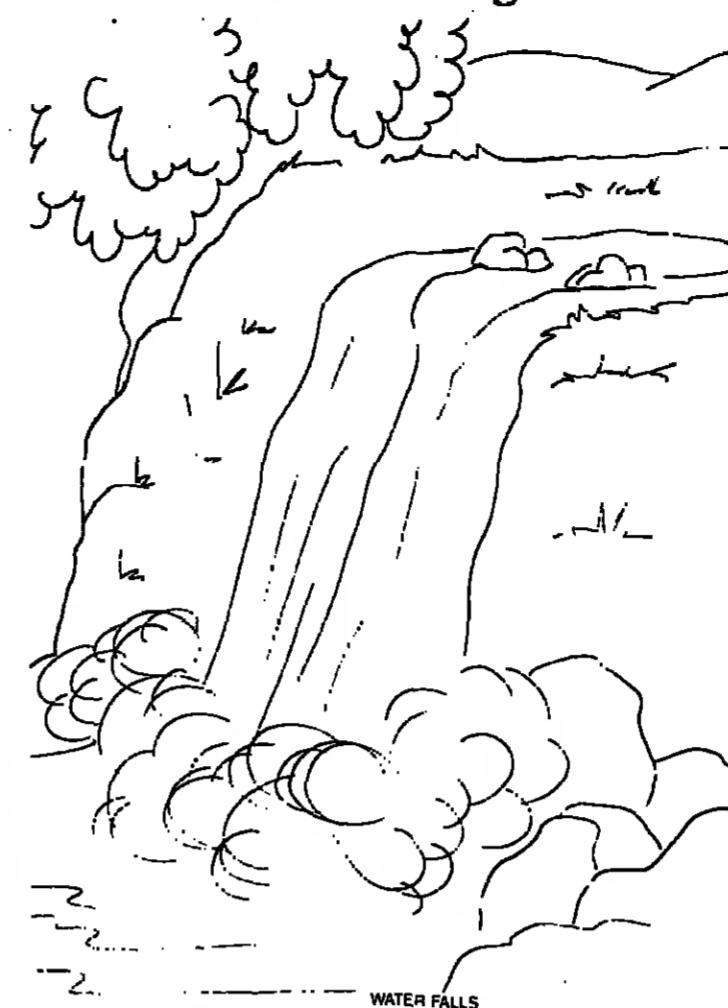
Make sure your people have a head, 2 arms and 2 legs! Roll out little balls of the mix to make the eyes, nose, mouth and buttons.

- 7 Put your people on the baking tray and ask a grown-up to put the tray in the oven. Leave to cook for 20-25 minutes. Ask a grown-up to take the tray out and leave the gingerbread to cool.

What happened to the gingerbread people while they were in the oven?

Note to Parents  
As well as being creative and fun, baking gingerbread involves measuring out the ingredients, observing how their properties change as they are mixed and baked. There is no need to roll out the mixture, just a child will enjoy moulding it into shape by hand. Before cooking, the people should be at least 1cm thick.

## Colour timing



## WATER FALLS

## Take-away tales: 3

|      |     |     |       |      |      |     |       |       |      |     |
|------|-----|-----|-------|------|------|-----|-------|-------|------|-----|
| none | one | two | three | four | five | six | seven | eight | nine | ten |
| zero |     |     |       |      |      |     |       |       |      |     |

Six mini mice

Nibble on a bun.

Five nap off home.

Now there is

Nine birthday candles

Have brightly burning wicks.

Three burn to nothing.

Now there are

Ten dogs are barking

At my garden gate.

Two are barking up a tree.

Now there are

Four pandas chew

Shoots of new bamboo.

Three shoot off two.

Now there are

## Who am I

I'm off to the land of the wizard  
I want to find out who I am  
come rain, hail or snow blizzard

I'm going in search of the man.  
He's a wise man, with a  
magical power who practises witchcraft I hear

He lives in the top of a tower  
I'm twenty-two miles from there.  
I want to know am I a lizard?  
A fairy, a goblin or elf?

I am going to the land of the wizard  
So I can find out for myself.

By D.M. Howell,  
Mablethorpe, Lincs.

## The Hero

We all sing 'praise' to the hero  
when in his height of fame  
why not for the disappointed  
who narrowly miss their aim.

I ache for the marathon runner  
this eager anxious soul  
who falls, his strength exhausted  
when, almost in sight of his goal.

The heart that breaks in silence  
with sorrows all unknown  
It is he that needs companions  
yet is forced to walk alone.

By D.M. Howell,  
Mablethorpe, Lincs  
(U.K.)

## DELIGHTFUL ENJOYABLE FUN

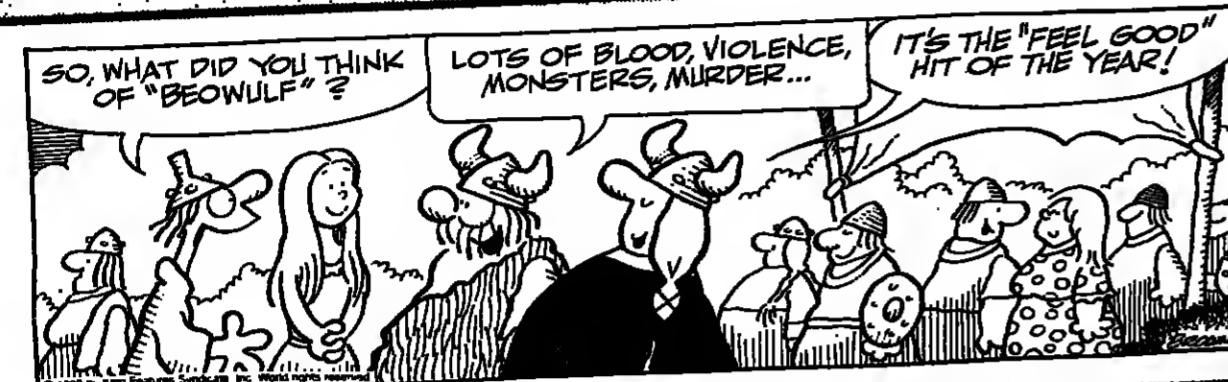
The 58 words below are three letters long and some contain either a "D", "E" or "F" as their first letter. Do you think that you can find them all?

|     |     |     |     |      |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|
| DAD | DIG | FAN | FEW | FIR  | FLY | FOX |
| DAN | DIM | FAR | FIB | FIT  | FOE | FRY |
| DAY | DIP | FAT | FIG | FIX  | FOG | FUN |
| DEB | DOE | FEE | FIN | FLU  | FOR | FUR |
| DEE | DOG | DON | DID | TRI  | LDN | AFA |
| DEN | DOT | DOT | TRI | LDN  | NAF | DAD |
| DEW | DRY | DRY | LDN | DNF  | AD  | DA  |
| DID | DUD | DUD | TRI | DNF  | FA  | DA  |
| DIE | ELF | ELF | LDN | IEE  | DA  | DA  |
| DUE | DUG | ELK | DNF | EAU  | FA  | DA  |
| DYE | ELM | ELM | TRI | UIL  | DA  | DA  |
| EAR | END | END | LDN | XY   | FA  | DA  |
| EAT | ERA | ERA | DNF | YD   | DA  | DA  |
| EBB | ERE | ERE | TRI | ROG  | DA  | DA  |
| EEL | ERR | ERR | LDN | GAZ  | DA  | DA  |
| EGG | EVE | EVE | DNF | YAA  | DA  | DA  |
| EGO | EWE | EWE | TRI | WOL  | DA  | DA  |
|     |     |     | LDN | KRIL | DA  | DA  |
|     |     |     | DNF | GDR  | DA  | DA  |
|     |     |     | TRI | ROY  | DA  | DA  |
|     |     |     | LDN | XN   | DA  | DA  |

## BLONDIE — By Dean Young &amp; Stan Drake



## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dik Browne



## AGATHA CRUMM — By Bill Hoest



## BEETLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker



## THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker &amp; Johnny Hart



## ANDY CAPP



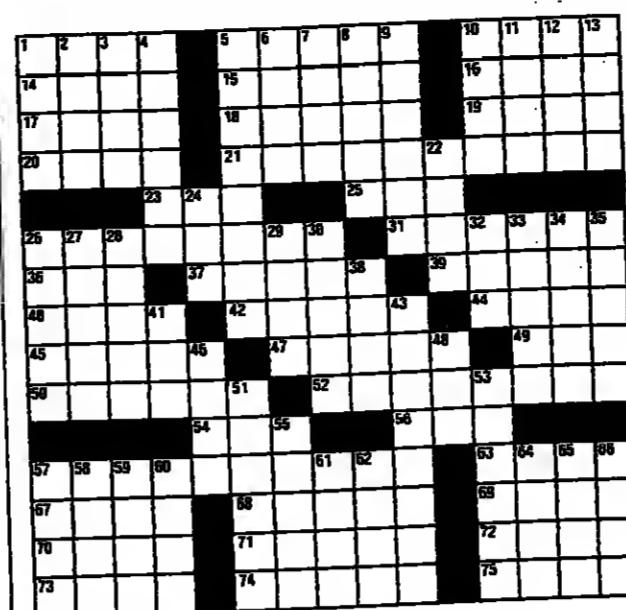
## B.C. — By Johnny Hart



## HE-MAN — By G. Fenton &amp; J. Shull



## TODAY'S CROSSWORD



## GOREN BRIDGE

## BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

## WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you What action do you take? bold:  
♦ 6 ♦ AQ5 ♦ 8763 ♦ 85432 Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you bold:  
The bidding has proceeded: ♦ 10963 ♦ K7 ♦ AK6 ♦ Q952  
West North East South  
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♣ Pass Partner opens the bidding with one  
4 NT Pass 5 ♦ ? heart. What do you respond?  
What action do you take?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you bold:  
♦ 832 ♦ K10 ♦ AQ92 ♦ AK54 The bidding has proceeded:  
The bidding has proceeded: West North East South  
Dbl Pass ? What action do you take?

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you bold:  
♦ AJ94 ♦ Void ♦ Q1087653 ♦ 6 The bidding has proceeded:  
The bidding has proceeded: West North East South  
1 ♠ 1 NT ? What action do you take?

Q.6—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♦ AJ3 ♦ AK ♦ AQ83 ♦ AKQ9 The bidding has proceeded:  
West North East South  
1 ♠ 2 ♠ ?



## ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

|            |            |       |
|------------|------------|-------|
| AREO       | DECA       | LIVE  |
| VIDEO      | EMOTE      | ONER  |
| OBIT       | BUSHMASTER |       |
| CATER'S    | TOMATO     |       |
| ATONE      | MERITED    |       |
| OER        | ABASER     | NEMO  |
| OSIS       | RUSE       | OINER |
| BUSHPILOT  |            |       |
| SHARP      | ANEW       | POR   |
| SOMA       | GOLDEN     | ANE   |
| TINNIER    | TALES      |       |
| ECARTE     | BOSOTA     |       |
| BUSHLEAGUE | EMIL       |       |
| ANTE       | SKIRT      | NAME  |
| TOYS       | ESNE       | TRES  |

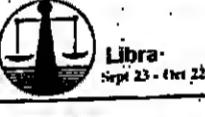
## YOUR STARS



You should not allow yourself to be diverted from the main task at hand. Do not expect more than you deserve or else you will be disappointed. Give others a chance to say what they have to say. Be observant.



You will have lots more energy but you must make sure you do not dissipate it. You will be better able to enjoy yourself. However you should certainly not live for pleasure alone. Be punctual.



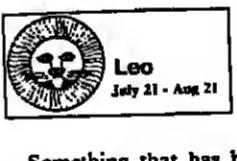
Everything will take a lot longer than you had hoped so you should make sure you do not waste any time. And try to do your best to concentrate even harder. Do not neglect your health and personal hygiene. Be reasonable.



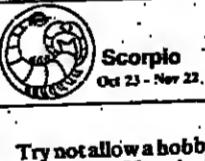
You will have to make an immediate decision, delay could be dangerous. Not everything in life seems to be so try to look a little more closely. Make sure you do not leave a friend in doubt about your intentions. Be less repetitious.



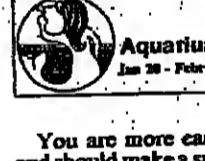
Do not try to take the credit for something you know well you have done. There is no point delaying pay a bill which is so due. You should make sure others are in no doubt about what you mean. Be tactful.



Something that has been puzzling you will now be resolved. You should try not to get hold of the wrong end of the stick. You should not place too much trust in a new acquaintance just yet. Be generous.



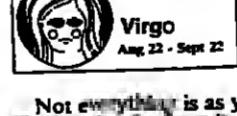
Try not allow a hobby to become an obsession. Your lucky numbers are 20 and 30. You should have a little more faith in yourself as well as in others. Do not judge things by appearances. Be reliable.



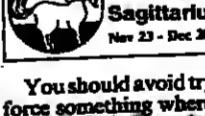
You are more easily distracted and should make a special effort to concentrate. Make sure you do not allow yourself to get caught up in detail. And do not lose sight of your objectives. Be on your guard.



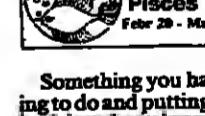
You will feel more yourself than of late but you must not be carried away by euphoria. You will know how to deal with a difficulty. You should not expect others to do just what you would wish them to do. Be swift.



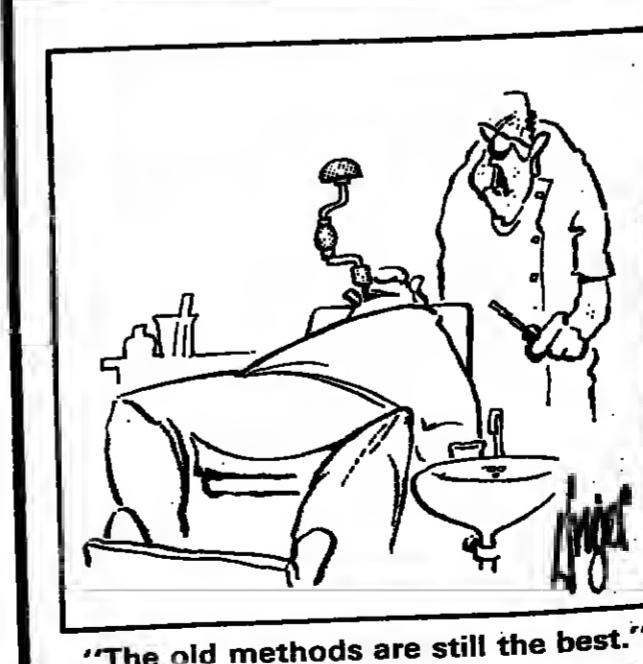
Not everything is as you would like it to be, far from it. However, your strength of mind will help you to overcome an unusual problem. You will be able to overcome a degree of uncertainty that has been bothering you. Be less vindictive.



You should avoid trying to do by force something where persuasion has failed. A financial matter will require your immediate attention — if you leave it, it could be serious. You should not expect your children to be replicas of yourself. Be kind.



Something you have been meaning to do and putting off should not be delayed any longer. You should show a little more goodwill towards others. It won't do you any harm to show a little more kindness and generosity. Be accurate.



"The old methods are still the best."



"386 1/2 ...."

# ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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## ACCOMMODATION

### For Rent

JABRIYA, villa, Tale. 2407640/1, 5744884/5, 5519800. (AT2-51925-6)

### Available

SALMIYA, House No.6, Block 12, Street 1; Salem Al Mubarak Street in front of petrol station. Large rooms in a flat for a family, working girls or bachelor to share with an Indian family. Bus route 15, 19, 24, 27, 45. (AT2-51891-6)

FARWANIYA, near the co-operative. One room in a 2-bedroom flat for a couple or 2 bachelors, Indian, to share with a family. Tele. Thomas. 4742153. (AT2-51945-3)

SALMIYA, Bagdad Street. Accommodation with tele-facilities for Indian bachelors to share with a Goan family. Tele. 5712580. (AT2-51967-3)

MANGAF, one room in a ground floor flat, with bathroom, kitchen and tele-facilities including separate entrance, for a couple or two persons. Rent KD45. Tale. 3722412, 3724139, after 4.30 pm. (AT2-51959-3)

SALMIYA, near the Indian and Pakistani schools. One room in a 2-bedroom flat, for working girls or a couple, to share with a small family. Rent KD60. Tele. Ahmad. 5634390. (AT2-51954-3)

QADISIYA, Block 8, Street 86, House 5. 3 rooms for families. Tele. Majeed, 2531378, after 2 pm. (AT2-51956-3)

FAHAHEEL, Makkah Street, near the Indian School, one room with AC for a Goan/Mangalorean bachelor to share with a Goan boy. Rent KD40 per month. Tele. Fernandes, 3914040 res. (AT2-51931-2)

YAMAHA outboard boat engine, 25HP, in very good condition, KD200 ono. Kawai R100 drum computer, fully programmable, KD200 ono. Tala, Niranjan, 9035062, 9035063, 3719473. (AT2-51944-3)

TOYOTA Cressida GL '83 model, automatic, A/C, sky blue, sunroof and stereo system in very good condition. KD1,250. Cash negotiable. Tale. Shahab, 3712870 after 2 pm. (AT2-51968-3)

TOYOTA Supra, 1983, manual, AC, chocolate colour, in very good condition, KD1,500. Cash. Tale. 5641578, after 3 pm only. (AT2-51939-2)

NISSAN Sunny, 1988, automatic transmission, AC, white, 86,000 kms. in excellent condition - body, machine and engine, KD1,300 negotiable. Tele. Samir, 2433801 off, 3902783 house, after 2 pm. (AT2-51988-3)

NISSAN Stanza, 1.8 GL, 1984, beige, four doors, 52,000 kms, automatic, power steering, AC, stereo system. Driven by a lady, in immaculate condition. KD850. Tele. 4884485. (AT2-51962-3)

TOYOTA Supra, 1983, manual, AC, chocolate colour, in very good condition, KD1,500. Cash. Tale. 5641578, after 3 pm only. (AT2-51939-2)

PONTIAC 6000 LE, 1982 in excellent condition, with many new parts. KD1,200. Tele. 5730064. (AT2-51928-3)

(AT2-51928-3)

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## NBA ROUNDUP

## Hornets outclass Clippers

LOS ANGELES, March 19, (AP): Charlotte Hornets won for only the second time in 31 road games this season as Randolph Keys scored 13 fourth-quarter points, including a crucial 3-pointer with 1:45 to play against Los Angeles Clippers.

The Hornets, won the game (108-97) on Sunday for the first time in 11 attempts during their two-year history, broke a 13-game road losing streak and an eight-game overall streak.

**Nuggets 103, Timberwolves 98**  
Alex English scored 29 points and Denver scored the last five points of the game on free throws, handing Minnesota its 26th loss in 28 road games this season.

Danny Schayes broke the tie with a pair of free throws with 1:02 to go, and after a jump ball won by Denver, Michael Adams converted one of two foul shots for a 101-98 lead with 20 seconds remaining.

**Knicks 122, Nets 106**

Larry Bird scored 29 points, grabbed 18 rebounds and had 11 assists yesterday as the Boston Celtics handed the New Jersey Nets their 20th consecutive road loss, 122-106.

The Nets, losers of six straight overall and 25 of 28, were led by Dennis Hopson's 19 points.

**Sonics 121, Warriors 116**

Dale Ellis came off the bench to score 30 points and lead Seattle to a 121-116 victory over the Golden State Warriors and end a Sonics' five-game road losing streak.

Seattle's Derrick McKey had 11 rebounds and scored 15 of his 20 points in the second half. Chris Mullin scored 28 points and Mitch Richmond 26 for Golden State.

**Pistons 114, Mavericks 84**

James Edwards and Bill Laimbeer led a balanced attack with 16 points each as Detroit defeated Dallas for its 11th straight victory, 114-84.

The Pistons, in the midst of the hottest stretch in franchise history, have won 24 of their last 25 games. They're unbeaten in nine games during March and have lost just once since Jan. 21, a 112-103 setback in Atlanta on Feb. 23.

**Cavaliers 120, Magic 103**

Brad Daugherty scored a season-high 29 points and Mark Price had 25 as Cleveland used two big scoring runs to defeat Orlando, 120-103, the Magic's ninth straight loss.

Trailing 49-45 with less than three minutes remaining in the first half, the Cavs took command with a 14-0 run, and went on to their fifth consecutive victory. They trail Indiana by a half-game in the race for eighth place in the Eastern Conference.

**Trail Blazers 109, Rockets 96**

Clyde Drexler scored 21 points and Portland used a 16-0 run in the third quarter to beat Houston 109-96 for its ninth straight victory.

Akeem Olajuwon, who had 21, first-half points, led the Rockets with 28 points and 15 rebounds.

It's the sixth time in team history that the Blazers have won nine straight games and the first time since the 1987-88 NBA season.

## Good Kompany finishes second

## Red Viking triumphs

RED VIKING won the second night race staged by the Kuwait Offshore Sailing Association (Kosa) earlier this week. The event, SS 4, was a rerun of the fourth race of Kosa's current Spring Series.

The race was scheduled as a long distance overnight event with the aim of giving participating boats further exposure in the changed sailing conditions after sunset in preparation for the Bahrain Race in April.

The set course was a little over 42 nautical miles and basically consisted of a leg south to the West Cardinal, followed by a long haul north to the South Cardinal off Kuwait Towers, passing the West Cardinal along the way, a circular transit of the bay off Shuaib Port back to Kuwait Towers, a leg back to the Bell Buoy and a short leg to the finish line just off Shaab Marina.

Prevailing weather conditions augured well for the race as the start time approached with a light to moderate northerly wind, bright sunshine and a calm sea. At the start Shammal gained sweet revenge for her misfortunes the previous week when she managed to get to leeward of Danat and Good Kompany and push them out of the start gate. Magic Flute, as usual starting a little down the line from the rest of the fleet, was second to cross the line. Red Viking and Gull Wing both misjudged the start and crossed some distance behind the rest of the fleet.

As the yachts rounded the windward mark after a short heat, a seagull observing the race from a prime spectator position near the mark noted that a poor start doesn't necessarily mean the end of the race as by this time Danat, by pointing higher into the wind and

avoiding a tack, had managed to pass Shammal to round just in front of her closely followed by Gull Wing who had made up a lot of ground from the back of the fleet. Good Kompany, Red Viking and Magic Flute.

The very shy race nut to Bell Buoy saw Gull Wing continue her good run when she rounded this mark in front of Danat and Good Kompany and Magic Flute in pursuit. The strong ebb tide at this mark had Magic Flute in trouble who only avoided hitting it by some inspired helming and a freak wave at the critical moment pushing them

crew of Magic Flute, after their close encounter with a container ship the week before, were somewhat concerned to see a large orange object approaching from the rear. They were somewhat relieved when this object continued its line straight up into the air and became the moon.

Danat continued to lead until the mark signifying the turn back towards Kuwait Towers. Her crew had trouble seeing this mark and continued well past until they saw Gull Wing round causing them to slip into second place. The rest of the race saw little change in positions. Danat managed to close with Gull Wing until the finish which saw, albeit from different directions, Gull Wing crossing 35 seconds ahead of Danat. Red Viking sailed a particularly good spinnaker leg, again with the aid of her big boy which allowed her to decrease the margin of the bigger yachts and eventually give her the win. Shammal passed Magic Flute on the spinnaker leg but only managed to cross the finish line two minutes ahead.

The most pleasing result of the night was from Good Kompany, by far the smallest boat in the fleet, who although trailing her bigger sisters across the line, had sailed a very good race and took second place on handicap.

The race officer was particularly pleased with the night's racing. Conditions were perfect, the racing was very competitive with only 5 minutes separating 2nd, 3rd and 4th in the placings, a small margin after 10 hours of sailing but more importantly the post race conversation indicates that crew are in fact gaining the experience and confidence necessary for the trip down to Bahrain.

Handicap corrected results of race SS 4 are: 1 Red Viking, 2 Good Kompany, 3 Danat, 4 Magic Flute, 5 Gull Wing and 6 Shammal.

Progressive scores after eight races in the Spring Series still find Red Viking leading with 23, followed by Shammal on 27.5 and Magic Flute on 29.75.

The next races are scheduled for March 23 and are two Cans events. The briefing for the first will occur at 9.30 am at the Shaab Marina.

As South Cardinal was left to port the positions were unchanged except that Red Viking had increased its margin on Magic Flute by a few minutes and Shammal and Good Kompany had closed with the rest of the fleet. The

## Karpov asks for time-out

**KUALA, Malaysia, March 19, (AP):** Former Soviet world champion Anatoli Karpov today requested a postponement of the seventh game in the World Chess Championship Candidates Final

**LUMPUR, Malaysia, March 19, (AP):** Former Soviet world champion Anatoli Karpov today requested a postponement of the seventh game in the World Chess Championship Candidates Final



Red Viking, winner.

## Former racing driver admitted to hospital

**LONDON, March 19, (AP):** Former auto racing champion Stirling Moss is recovering in the hospital after being hit by a car while driving his motor scooter in central London. Westminster Hospital said today.

Moss' publicist Linda Patterson said doctors inserted three metal pins in the 60-year-old former Grand Prix driver's broken thigh bone.

Moss was hit by a car while driving his motor scooter in central London. He was taken to hospital with a broken thigh bone.

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## SPORTS

## SPORTS BRIEFS

## England triumph

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe, March 19. (UPI): Michael Atherton continued the remarkable run of form which has brought him 448 runs in five innings, scoring 101 yesterday as England A beat Zimbabwe in the third and final one-day cricket match. England put into bat by Zimbabwe, scored 247 for five off their 50 overs and then bowled out the home side for 219 to win by 28 runs and take the series 3-0.

## Wacker player

VIENNA, March 19. (UPI): Ernst Weber, the coach of Viennese soccer club Admira Wacker, has said the club will not release star player Gerald Rodax for less than \$2 million.

## Hurdles champion

CARDIFF, March 19. (UPI): Welshman Colin Jackson, the reigning Commonwealth 100 metres hurdles champion, withdrew Friday from the British team for an indoor competition against the Soviet Union and US Sunday.

## England players

LONDON, March 19. (UPI): Six members of the England Rugby Union team which lost Saturday's Grand Slam decider against Scotland have declared themselves unavailable for the three-week summer tour of Argentina. Record try scorer Rory Underwood and fellow British Lions Jeremy Guscott and Robb Andrew yesterday ruled themselves out along with Simon Halliday and Mark Bailey.

## Penguins player

PITTSBURGH, March 19. (AP): An agent for Pittsburgh Penguins player Mario Lemieux says the star centre's injured back improved over the past week. "There's a great deal of encouragement about his overall condition and the likelihood he will not need surgery," Tom Reich told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette yesterday.

## European champion

COPENHAGEN, March 19. (UPI): Eytan Can, the European flyweight boxing champion, has decided to retire because he has lost the drive to fight, it was reported yesterday.

## Top seeds win

TOP seeds continued to breeze through early round play at the Kuwait International Hotel's 1990 Amateur Tennis Classic.

Top-seeded Saleh Bushnaq upended Chris Myers 6-1 6-0 and second-seeded Ammar Hijawi defeated Giorgio Quintoro 6-3 6-2. Bushnaq later teamed with Majed Adham to whip Stanislaw Brennenstuhl and Gregory Latala 6-0 6-0 and the second seeded team of Hijawi and Walid Abu Lughud won down Arun Nair and A. Temton 6-2 6-2.

In other men's singles action: A. Nair outlasted Rabi Nasser 3-6 2-6 1-6. T. Mitera defeated A. Negri 6-3 6-4. C. Brokmann edged K. Fadda 7-6 (7-5) 6-3.

In open doubles action: M. Al-Jazira & R. Vincent defeated C. Myers & P. Stuhbs 6-4 6-6 1-6.

N. El Kady & W. Saleh beat F. Fadda & K. Faddah 6-1 6-2.

S. John & M. Saleh trounced M. Abdol & D. Morrison 6-0 6-0. M. Simon & K. Soenksen defeated S. Abu Lughud & A. Saleh 6-0.

C. Brokmann & A. Negri slid by S. Abe & T. Mitera 7-6 (7-0) 4-6.

WELLINGTON, March 19. (Reuters): New Zealand skipper John Wright played a superb 117 not out today to help send Australia crashing to its first defeat in 15 cricket Tests.

Wright's aggressive innings paved the way for a nine-wicket win for New Zealand in the one-off Test in Wellington and allowed his team to wrap up the match with more than a session to spare.

Australia's previous loss was to the West Indies in Melbourne in December, 1988.

It was a fitting way for bowler Richard Hadlee to bow out of Test cricket in New Zealand. His availability for New Zealand's tour to England later this year remains in doubt.

"The time couldn't be better, with this victory over Australia, for me to leave Test cricket in New Zealand," Hadlee said.

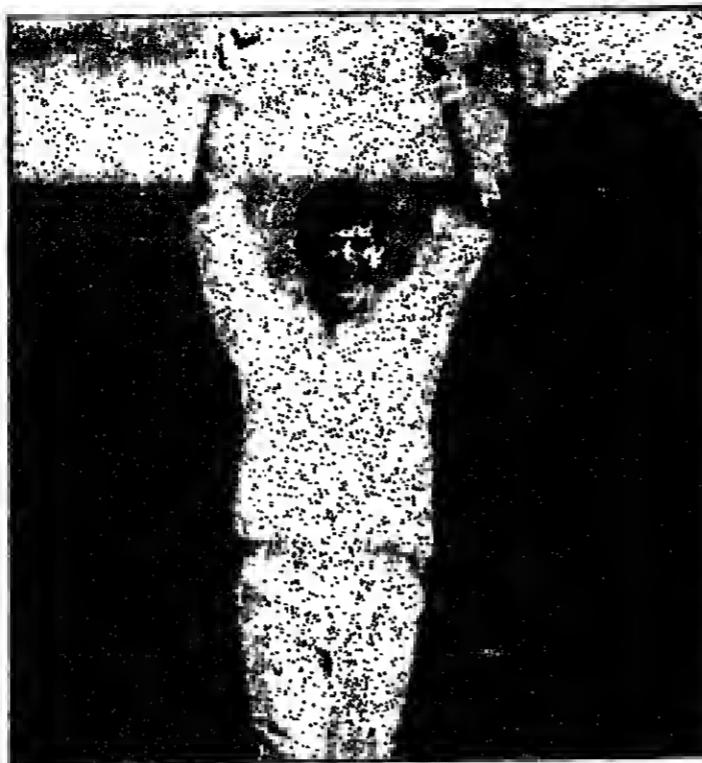
"We have won credibility and respect all over the world and to play in this particular team has been quite outstanding."

Hadlee took five wickets for 39 runs in the first innings of this match.

New Zealand, after dismissing Australia for 269 in their second innings late yesterday, needed 178 to win on a wicket that continued to play slow but offered the hundred mark twice against India this summer.

Wright, the Man of the Match, was modest at his post-match

Wright told reporters after the



Hadlee: played last Test in New Zealand

match he thought the 178-run target was going to be difficult, but the wicket had died and was not turning sharply.

Wright's century came in 240 minutes off 183 balls and included one six and four fours. It was his tenth Test century and his third of the season. He passed the hundred mark twice against India this summer.

Bracewell took six wickets for 85 and allowed New Zealand to clean up the last four Australian batsmen for eight runs.

"He was the guy who won the

news conference.

"Batting conditions were probably at their best today," he said. "John Bracewell turned the corner for us yesterday, because if we had been chasing around 220, it would have been harder for us psychologically."

Bracewell took six wickets for 85 and allowed New Zealand to clean up the last four Australian batsmen for eight runs.

"They batted brilliantly today, especially John Wright. We had visions of it being a difficult total, but they got it easily."

Wright and fellow opener



Wright: remained not out on 117

Test for us yesterday," Wright said of Bracewell. "If I hadn't got the runs today, someone else would have."

Australian captain Allan Border said his team was outplayed. "I can't offer any other excuses," he said.

"They batted brilliantly today, especially John Wright. We had visions of it being a difficult total, but they got it easily."

Wright and fellow opener

Trevor Franklin began slowly in the first hour, but gradually compiled the only 50-run opening partnership of the match, before Franklin was caught behind off Greg Campbell when the score was 53.

The Australians were unlucky not to pick up a couple of wickets in the morning session, with pace bowlers Carl Rackemann and Terry Alderman beating the bat several times.

Fall of wicket: 1-53

Did not bat: M. Graafschap, K. Ruthford, J. Crowe, R. Hadlee, I. Smith, J. Bracewell, M. Sheden, D. Moneon.

Bowling: T. Alderman 14-8-27-0, C. Rackemann 15-4-39-0 (nb-1), P. Taylor 11-3-39-0, G. Campbell 7-2-10-4, D. Jones 6-3-14-0, A. Border 10-4-27-0.

Extras (10-10, nb-2): 13

Total (for one wkt from 63.3 overs): 181

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Did not bat: M. Graafschap, K. Ruthford, J. Crowe, R. Hadlee, I. Smith, J. Bracewell, M. Sheden, D. Moneon.

Bowling: T. Alderman 14-8-27-0, C. Rackemann 15-4-39-0 (nb-1), P. Taylor 11-3-39-0, G. Campbell 7-2-10-4, D. Jones 6-3-14-0, A. Border 10-4-27-0.

Extras (10-10, nb-2): 13

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